

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. MARVIN CHASE

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, on December 12 a good man, a fine public servant and a good friend of mine died at the age of 65. Marvin Chase lived in North Stonington and during his lifetime he was truly a citizen in action. For those of us who knew him, his name is synonymous with public service, a love of his community and a deep love for his family and friends.

Marvin was involved with his community. He was a Republican but he was from the school of thought that said, "I don't care what your political affiliation is, I care about you and I care about your ideas." Consequently, he was able to work with individuals from across the political spectrum. He liked and respected people; and he was liked and respected in return.

A 6-year member of the North Stonington Economic Development Commission, which he chaired, Marvin won another 5-year term in November. First Selectman Nicholas H. Mullane II, said Marvin was "probably the best chairman I've ever seen on the EDC."

Marvin did more than keep the seat warm. In 2003 he led the commission as it studied the best way to bring business to town. He also led the commission's two-year effort to create a low-impact commercial development zone near Interstate 95 exit 92, which the Planning and Zoning Commission approved in February. And that zone change drew immediate interest from businesses.

Marvin was always sensitive of the need to balance business with the rural nature of our community and our region in southeastern Connecticut. He wanted to attract businesses so that taxes could be kept under control and so that there would be jobs; but he knew how important it was to ensure that North Stonington kept the quiet characteristics that make it such a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

Marvin belonged to the North Stonington Grange, served on the North Stonington Fair Committee and for more than 30 years he was a member of what is now the Masonic United Coastal Lodge 57. A former deacon of United Church in Stonington, Marvin served until a few years ago as moderator of the First Baptist Church in North Stonington. He was chairman of the North Stonington Republican Town Committee and a lifetime member of the North Stonington Fire Company.

Marvin worked for the State of Connecticut Motor Vehicle Department as an inspector for the Dealers and Repairers Division and he owned and operated a Shell Service Station in Preston for many years.

There was also a racy side to Marvin—he drove race cars at the Thompson Motor Speedway, Norwood Arena, Waterford Speedbowl and Stafford Speedway from 1960

to 2001. And he was vice president of the New England Antique Racer's Association.

Finally, Marvin played a significant role in all of my political campaigns, offering me his sage advice and insights to a variety of issues. His was always a voice of reason and sound judgment. He was a friend—and a friend can tell you things you do not want to tell yourself. But those are often things you most need to hear. I will miss him greatly.

CONGRATULATING THE LAKELAND DREADNAUGHTS AS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS "NULLI SECUNDUS"

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to applaud the accomplishments of the Lakeland High School Varsity Football team from Lakeland, Florida—the 2005 Class 5A Florida State Champions and the 2005 National Champions.

Coach Bill Castle, 2004 5A Coach of the Year and recent inductee of the Polk County Sports Hall of Fame, led the Dreadnaught's to their 5th State Championship, 17th District Championship, and 1st National Championship. The Dreadnaughts defeated Ft. Lauderdale's St. Thomas Aquinas, 39–19, ending their season at 15–0, in a rematch of last years title for the Class 5A State Championship. This is the first time a Polk County football team has won back-to-back State titles, and the first time that two top-five nationally ranked teams have met this late in the season.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Coach Castle and his staff, Dan Talbot, Dan Moonet, Frank Webster, Chris Davis, Clay Taylor, Jason Butler, Michael Peeples, Denny Krahe, and Brian Abdon, for the positive example they set and for the leadership they provide. In addition, Principal Mark Thomas and his administration, Athletic Director Sid Kimbrell, the faculty and staff, the parents, the students, the alumni and the fans should all be commended for their community spirit and constant support.

Most importantly, however, I would like to recognize those outstanding student athletes, who exemplified the hard work, character, and sportsmanship, to make this victory possible: Matt Grier, Scott Bryant, Chris Rainey, Rashard Coleman, Andre Walker, Pat Turner, Deonte Parker, T.K. Lamb, Ledarius Dobie, Darius Jones, Tyler Grantham, Billy Lowe, Awtan Glover, Jordan Hammond, Jesse Smart, Paul Wilson, Adam Williams, Blair Castle, Leon Covington, Steve Wilks, Cedric Edom, Preston Chatmon, Ahmad Black, Jamar Taylor, Troy Johnson, Calvin Shaw, Derrell Harrison, Connor Johnson, Tony McElrath, Aaron Walters, Devon Terry, Justin Burdette, Bryant Peace, Matt Roddenbery, Nic Moody, Colin Clyne, Quinten Campbell, Mike Jensen,

Michael Horton, David Liason, Ben Wilcox, Jensen Harris, Justin Calabrese, James Campbell, John Brown, Eagar Lewis. The Dreadnaughts prove that academic excellence, intensive training and a lot of heart, will lead a team to victory. The school's motto is "Nulli Secundus," which means "Second to None." I know that I speak for every member in offering congratulations and the best of luck to the Lakeland Dreadnaughts, who officially are "second to none" in the Nation.

FURTHER CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the fiscal year 2006 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Conference Report. I was dismayed to hear my friend, the Chairman of the Subcommittee, state that this bill "more than any other, illustrates the compassion of the American people." But the American people did not produce this bill, and, judging from the hundreds of calls and letters to my office, they do not support its provisions.

Across the board, in nearly every area of importance to American families, our citizens are shortchanged by this bill. The Labor-HHS-Education bill is often the most contentious appropriations measure to move through Congress. This is because the programs it funds affect the health, the quality of life, indeed the future of every American. This year, the original version of the conference report was deemed so harmful that it was rejected once already on November 17. Today, the authors of this bill have returned it to the floor with a few cosmetic changes designed only to secure enough votes to squeak the bill through. But this so-called "new and improved version" will be no less objectionable to the sensibilities of the American people and certainly no less harmful to American families.

This legislation sends a clear message to the American people: for educational opportunity, for food assistance to elderly Americans, for help with heating bills next winter, for access to quality health care, for advances in medical research: do not look to this Congress for help.

The majority says it cares about families, about better education, about improved health care, about a productive workforce, about economic opportunity. But it has produced a bill that cuts the bootstraps of middle class families trying to stay afloat and aspiring families who are reaching for the American dream.

Overall, this bill cuts \$1.5 billion from last year's funding levels. Let us examine what effect these cuts will have on our Nation.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

A strong and productive workforce is key to our Nation's future. According to the Department of Labor, nearly 8 million Americans and 120,000 Marylanders are unemployed. But this Congress is poised to slash more than \$400 million from job training and employment services funding.

It will also cut State unemployment insurance and employment service offices by \$245 million, and assistance for approximately 1.9 million people will be jeopardized.

This bill also cuts by \$250 million the Community College Initiative, which is President Bush's initiative to help community colleges train prospective workers for high-skill jobs. The conference report cuts funding for that effort by \$125 million and rescinds \$125 million from fiscal year 2005 funds.

A healthy America is key to our Nation's future. We have more than 45 million Americans without health insurance. Many of them rely on networks of community health centers to receive much needed care. I was encouraged by the President's initiative to increase the number of community health centers around the country, but the conference report provides \$238 million less than the President's request. The Republican leadership supports this conference report, despite the fact that this House passed in July a resolution stating that community health centers are "vital to the nation's communities." Surely, the dedicated workers at our health centers will find the words of that resolution hollow if this conference report is passed. This conference report cuts health care access for underserved areas of the country. It eliminates the community access program, which provides lifesaving and life-enhancing health care to many regions that lack a sufficient number of health care facilities.

This bill cuts title VII health professions programs by 69 percent and it eradicates several programs entirely. This is particularly outrageous coming from a Congress that claims to want to end health disparities. Johns Hopkins Institutions in my home town of Baltimore receive more than \$2.5 million in funding for title VII grants. These programs serve different spheres of the health care system, from the Schools of Nursing, Public Health and Medicine. All of this funding is jeopardized by the bill before us today.

The National Institutes of Health is headquartered in my home State of Maryland. Over the past year, I have met with dozens of representatives from patient groups. They are aware that the President's budget for fiscal year 2006 proposed the smallest increase for NIH in 36 years. The paltry increase in this bill does not even keep pace with inflation. What does it mean in real terms? Not only will we not be able to increase our efforts to fight diabetes, HIV/AIDS, cancer, brain injury, Alzheimer's and other pernicious diseases, we will actually see a reduction in the number of grants and the number of research projects funded by NIH.

Improvements in education are key to our Nation's future. This Congress speaks often about the need to hold our schools accountable, yet this conference takes away the funding our school districts need to improve students' achievement levels.

Title I funding for low-income children are given a 0.8 percent increase—the smallest increase in 8 years, and only a fraction of the increase requested by the President. Special

education grants receive a 0.9 percent increase—the smallest increase in 10 years.

We talk a lot about the need to increase education technology, yet this conference report cuts that funding by nearly half. We speak of the need to protect our children from violence and illegal drugs, but this bill cuts Safe and Drug-Free Schools by one-fifth, and provides no increase for after-school programs for the fourth consecutive year.

Everyone in this House can agree that the cost of higher education is soaring, but this conference report fails to provide any increase whatsoever for Pell grants, without which so many college students could not continue their education. President Bush proposed a \$100 increase, the House passed a \$50 increase, but the conferees did not even provide that. Instead, they froze the maximum Pell grant amount at \$4,050 for the fourth consecutive year.

Finally, our goodness as a nation is measured by how we treat the most vulnerable Americans. If we are to truly be a great nation, we must care for those who are less able to care for themselves. It is disappointing that this conference report slashes funding for the Social Security Administration, which is entrusted with processing disability claims for millions of Americans. In my district, the Third Congressional District of Maryland, I represent many employees of the Social Security Administration. They are hardworking, dedicated staffers, but they can only do so much without adequate funding for personnel and technological support. In the Ways and Means Committee, we have had several hearings about the backlogs of cases at SSA, and Commissioner Barnhart has sought congressional assistance in bringing her processing systems up to date. Unfortunately, this bill will not make SSA employees' jobs any easier nor will it help reduce the backlog of pending cases. In fact, the backlogs will get worse. The House failed to provide the President's request, it provides even less than the House- or Senate-passed bills.

Some of my colleagues have defended these cuts as necessary to restore fiscal discipline to our budget. When combined with a planned 1 percent across-the-board cut, this bill will save approximately \$3 billion over last year's spending, and \$15 billion over the next 5 years. But at the same time, the congressional leadership is advancing an agenda of tax cuts that exceed \$70 billion. They are asking us to believe that it is necessary to eliminate programs and inflict pain on American families, but they are doing this not to balance the budget, but to make room for tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, when this House defeated the Labor-HHS bill prior to the Thanksgiving recess, it was because a majority of this House believed that it would jeopardize vital services for millions of Americans. The revisions in today's conference report are minimal and keep us on the same track toward wiping out key safety net programs. Therefore, I rise again in opposition to this conference report and urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO GLADYS
TANTAQUIDGEON

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Gladys Tantaquidgeon, whose life's work greatly enhanced the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut.

On November 1, the woman who was rightly known as the "keeper of the Mohegan culture" died at the age of 106. Gladys Tantaquidgeon was a woman of uncommon integrity and cheerful determination. Throughout her life she devoted her skills, talents and knowledge to the revival of the Mohegan Tribe and countless lives have been enriched by her steadfastness.

Gladys Tantaquidgeon was an anthropologist and ethnobotanist. She wrote extensively about Native Americans and her knowledge was wide-ranging. She played a key role in establishing the Mohegan tribal museum. Her flawless record-keeping and her encyclopedic knowledge of the history of her tribe were instrumental in helping the Mohegans win Federal recognition in 1994.

In the Hartford Courant, Melissa Tantaquidgeon Zobel, Gladys's grandniece, pointed out that much of the artwork in the tribe's Mohegan Sun Casino, in Montville, was inspired by the collection of the "keeper of Mohegan culture." Ms. Zobel recently remarked, "We all have to wonder, would we be where we are today without her? She was an image from another world. It would be dishonorable not to celebrate her passing."

The Mohegan Tribe today is successful by any measure and they most certainly would not be where they are today without the perseverance and stamina of this incredible woman. Supported in no small measure by her work, the tribe has preserved its heritage and history and has created economic security for the future.

The Mohegan Sun Casino has created jobs throughout the region, has provided economic assistance to its host community and works with vendors throughout the State.

And while the tribe and the entire region mourns her death, we surely celebrate the extraordinary life of this great woman who was a descendent of Uncas, the famous Mohegan chief.

She demonstrated that the Mohegan's history is an integral and essential part of Connecticut's history. The Hartford Courant said it well, observing that Gladys Tantaquidgeon was "the living link between past and present whose diligent record-keeping led to federal recognition for the Mohegans. They are now running one of the world's most lucrative casinos and are fabulously rich. It is telling that they are prouder of their heritage than their wildly successful business venture."

The Mohegan Tribe and the State of Connecticut are better off because of Gladys Tantaquidgeon. She did much more than enable her people to secure the recognition they deserved. She taught, by word and example, that our lives as Americans are deeply entwined and that history is not something that happened in the past. History is alive and even as it reminds us of who we were, it also reminds us of what we might become.

Gladys Tantaquidgeon was an exceptional woman. The Mohegan Tribe and Connecticut are fortunate that for more than a century she was among us. She will be missed.

**TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005**

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2017). The Torture Victims Relief Act (TVRA) has provided critical support to thousands of survivors of torture since it was first authorized in 1999. The sad fact is that torture is still used by governments around the world and the need for the bill is as pronounced as ever. With revelations of the U.S.'s own use of torture making waves around the world, we can ill afford to take a step back in the field of torture treatment.

The United States must renew its commitment against the use of torture. And it must support efforts to ease the pain and suffering of those living in parts of the world where there are no other resources—not to mention political motivation—to help survivors of torture.

Currently, 27 programs in 17 states including Illinois receive assistance for torture treatment in the U.S. Treatment provided by these programs enables survivors of torture to recover their lives and become productive members of their communities. Many of these centers, including the center in Illinois, also train mainstream professionals. This increases the ability of health care providers, attorneys, leaders of faith, and others, to provide for the special needs of torture victims and contribute to the prevention of torture.

The TVRA is at work in my district, supporting the work of the Marjorie Kovler Center of Heartland Alliance. The Center provides medical, mental health and social services to more than 300 torture survivors every year. While these services are provided for people across the state and into Indiana and Wisconsin, the Center receives more referrals from my Congressional district than any other. These individuals make their way to our community at great personal cost. They come seeking safety, only to be confronted with the difficulties of adjusting to life in the United States. They each carry a heavy burden from the trauma they have suffered, and many would not become the productive members of the community that they want to be if it not for the services supported by the TVRA.

In addition to the people in my district that the Center serves, I am proud to say that dozens of my constituents volunteer and work at the Marjorie Kovler Center. I have had the opportunity to meet many of them at events in the district over the past several years and am aware of their skill and commitment. The fact is that volunteer and in-kind donations worth more than \$400,000 annually leverage funds from the TVRA spent in my district. This amounts to a one-to-one match of Federal funds provided by my community.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the Torture Victim Relief Re-

authorization Act, and I urge my colleagues to support funding for torture treatment centers.

**OPPOSING SECTION 3145 OF THE
RECONCILIATION SPENDING
CUTS CONFERENCE REPORT (H.R.
4241)**

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to Section 3145 of H.R. 4241, the proposed Reconciliation Spending Cuts Conference Report, and to express my unequivocal opposition to that provision and the base bill. That section will just provide added cause to reject the report, because it would require everyone—everyone—applying for Medicaid to produce a birth certificate or passport to prove citizenship.

Supporters of this provision talk a good game. And, on the surface, their rationale seems plausible and reasonable. They claim that Section 3145 will save a great deal of money by restricting undocumented residents from lying about their citizenship and falsely obtaining Medicaid services. However, Mr. Speaker, proponents of Section 3145 do not discuss is a comprehensive study by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General. This July 2005 study found no compelling evidence that illegal residents were lying about their citizenship status in order to qualify for Medicaid.

So it is nothing more than another barely veiled attack on immigrants—our fellow human beings—and it would also have adverse impacts on other American citizens as well.

For many of us here, the idea of obtaining a passport or a copy of a birth certificate does not sound difficult. However, for many Americans—particularly low-income Americans in rural communities, low-income racial and ethnic minorities and elderly Americans—getting a passport or a copy of a birth certificate is very difficult and sometimes even impossible. Even the cost is a barrier for some.

But further complicating the process for some Americans, particularly those who are low-income, racial and ethnic minorities and/or born in rural areas, is the fact that when they were born, their families may not have had access to hospitals—they may not be able to get birth certificates and therefore passports simply because they were born at home.

As you know, during much of the last century, many hospitals and health clinics—especially in the south and in areas entrenched in segregation and discrimination—would not admit minorities, especially African Americans. This long history of discrimination created barriers to health care access that continue to affect the health and health care of racial and ethnic minorities today. It is the same discrimination that now still makes it difficult for so many low-income African Americans senior—and other seniors of color—to obtain the required documentation they would need under this provision to obtain Medicaid services. Mr. Speaker, let's not be a part of allowing discrimination to create additional barriers to health care for immigrants or other Americans of color.

Further, were section 3145 to pass, it will be states and counties who will determine how to

enforce it and who to ask for the additional documentation.

My concern is that this provision will put low-income Americans at the mercy of individuals whose assumptions about their status put them at great risk for discrimination. It would attack everyone's civil liberties.

Mr. Speaker, Section 3145 is based on a completely false and slanderous assumption about immigrants in this country, and it is nothing more than another anti-immigrant provision among the many egregious ones that are being debated on the floor today.

There are repercussions for health in general. If enacted this provision would also have extraordinarily detrimental effects on the health and health care of many American citizens, it will increase the already unacceptably high numbers of uninsured Americans, and consequently, it will exacerbate health disparities—both racial and ethnic, and rural—as well as worsen the health and well being of many American citizens.

In our focus on section 3145, we don't want anyone to get the wrong impression that this is one bad provision in an otherwise good bill. Nothing could be further from fact. What it does is just make a conference report that is shaping up to be a terrible bill already, even worse.

Just today I received a letter from the national Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. It read in part:

"The role of government is to protect its people and work for the common good. This is not the time for the budget reconciliation process to create greater hardships for those who are already experiencing great suffering. To do so is not only unjust; it is a sin. It violates all the fundamental Christian principles of loving thy neighbor, caring for the poor, and showing mercy. As religious leaders, this violation is unacceptable to us."

This is a reference to the entire budget reconciliation bill, and whether one is Baptist, Catholic, Jew or Moslem the words ring true.

It is rotten to the core, and this country, which pledges to be one "under God", should not let the Immigration/Border Security Bill or any part of the inhumane budget reconciliation or spending cut bill as it is now written become the law of this land.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 638, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JERIOUS NORWOOD

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, Mississippi State University has much to be proud of: excellence in academics with a reputation for top agriculture and energy research. This year, I

join MSU in congratulating a student athlete for his on-the-field achievements.

Senior running back Jerious Norwood of Brandon, Mississippi, was awarded the Cellular South Conerly Award this year, earning the honor of Mississippi's top college football player of 2005. Norwood ran for 1,136 yards and six touchdowns this season, 204 yards and three scores coming in the Bulldogs' season-ending, 35-14 win over rival Ole Miss in the Egg Bowl. That performance also earned him the Southeastern Conference Offensive Player of the Week.

Norwood is only the second Bulldog ever to rush for 1,000-plus yards in back-to-back seasons. He follows James "JJ" Johnson (1997-1998) both in that distinction and in earning the Conerly Award. Norwood and Johnson are the only two Bulldogs to win this recognition in its 10-year history.

Midway through this season, Norwood became State's career rushing leader with a final achievement of 3,222 total yards on the ground, eclipsing Walter Packer's previous mark of 2,820 yards set in the 1970s. Norwood also finished with the most 100-yard games in MSU history.

Norwood, along with senior defensive end Willie Evans, was named to the 2005 Coaches' All-SEC team and was named second-team, All-SEC by the Associated Press.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Norwood on his achievements and join with Bulldog head coach Sylvester Croom in wishing him many future successes.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 196, to recognize the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, providing the final blow to eradicate the system of slavery in this great nation.

The history of slavery in North America traces back to the early-1500s. Through various European colonies, continuing through the early years of the United States, around 6 million Africans were forcibly removed from their home and brought to North America to work as slaves. The years, however, wrought on and the conscience of this Nation came to realize the profundity of inequality that this system perpetuated. Not only were people born and raised in this country forced to work as indentured servants, but even their status as human beings was reduced to that of three-fifths of a person. This system could not continue.

Brave abolitionists working tirelessly to bring about the downfall of this inherently unjust system, many of them sacrificing their lives and their own freedoms, the tensions surrounding this issue provided one of the major breaking points for the American Civil War. With the advent of a nation turned upon itself, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, freeing all slaves within the Confederate States. Two

years later, the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution was proposed on the House floor and was met with cheers in support resounding from the House Gallery. Less than one year later, on December 6, 1863, Georgia's state legislature became the 27th State to pass the measure, meeting the requirement for ratification. On that day, the 13th Amendment was passed, slavery had been abolished, and our great Nation could finally put this dark period of history in our past.

Over the next five years, the remaining Civil War Amendments would be passed, including the 14th Amendment, which granted equal protection under the law, and the 15th Amendment, which granted voting rights regardless of race. Although slavery itself had been abolished, these historic achievements would set the foundation for a long struggle towards abolishing discrimination and injustice.

The 13th Amendment set a firm base for the modern-day civil rights movement, many aspects of which continue on with us today. The legacy of those who ended slavery and started us on the path to equality for all people must continue to inspire us to reach for greater tolerance, greater understanding, and greater compassion for our fellow human beings.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the Chamber on Thursday, December 15, to cast my votes on rollcalls 636 through 641. Had I been present I would have voted in the following ways: Rollcall 636—Nay; Rollcall 637—Yea; Rollcall 638—Yea; Rollcall 639—Yea; Rollcall 640—Nay; and Rollcall 641—Yea.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JENNY GRAVES AND ASHLEE MANN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to two outstanding young women from Littleton and Aurora, CO. Jenny Graves and Ashlee Mann graduated from AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps 10-month program in Perry Point, MD.

Through this program these young women learned the critical role that AmeriCorps'NCCC plays in disaster relief. These young women now have a stronger understanding of the role that volunteers play in assisting areas affected by natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Jenny Graves and Ashlee Mann and their achievements here today, and wish these young women all the best in their future endeavors.

SALUTING THE COMMAND, CREW
AND AIR WING OF THE U.S.S.
"RONALD REAGAN"

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, the newest carrier in the United States Navy is engaged in final training and preparation in the Pacific Ocean and will soon be deployed to the Middle East to support our national interests, defend freedom and spread liberty to a more stable world. Nearly 6,000 Navy personnel call the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* home and serve both day and night in her courageous mission to provide "peace through strength."

Many of the personnel on the *Reagan* hail from Mississippi, and we are proud of our men and women who serve from the magnolia State. I often tell my colleagues that Mississippi has the full military package: Our citizens serve bravely in our Armed Forces, our bases train top pilots and protect important facilities, our universities provide cutting edge military research and technology, while companies and manufacturers earn top military contracts to produce the equipment our modern soldiers need for today's battles. I take personal honor in sharing the title "Mississippian" with these soldiers. We at home are proud of the Mississippians serving on the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*.

Many of the aviators and crew onboard the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* trained at Naval Air Station Meridian in my district in Mississippi. NAS Meridian is an essential, necessary and critical component of our national security network. This valuable and effective facility, and the community that supports it, adds strength to the character and performance of the United States Navy. We send these personnel to the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* and to our Navy forces around the world to serve with honor, courage and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress joins me in saluting the command, crew, and air wing of the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*. Their training and preparation allows the United States to advance our priorities around the globe, and remain secure at home. The U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan's* designation is CVN 76 and the crew practices daily the "Spirit of 76" in honor of their ship and the year of our independence, 1776. Their service will continue to keep us free. For the next half-century, the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* will serve the American people in times of peace and times of war, and I take this time to honor her and the forces on board as they prepare for her maiden deployment.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the irresponsible Republican tax giveaways proposed in

H.R. 4297. The Republican bill provides tax cuts for the wealthy few in our society by slashing critical services for vulnerable Americans and adding to our already exploding deficit.

I am appalled that the majority party has slashed food stamps, health care and student loans for vulnerable and middle-income families to pay for tax breaks for the Nation's most fortunate. The top priority—63 percent of the spending—in the Republican tax reconciliation bill is to extend capital gains and dividend tax cuts from 2008 to 2010.

Forty-five percent of the benefits of this provision will go to millionaires. In addition, this bill, even combined with the devastating cuts, will add \$81 billion to the deficit over the next 10 years.

The Republican bill focuses on benefits for their wealthiest contributors and fails to address tax changes that are necessary for the middle class. This bill does not include a provision to protect families from tax increases from the alternative minimum tax. I supported the 1-year fix on the AMT that this House passed because this is a critical issue for families in my district. However, this provision should have been included in this reconciliation package and should have been a priority for this Congress.

In total, the Republican reconciliation package includes tax increases of up to \$3,640 for middle income families due to the alternative minimum tax, increases of \$5,800 per student for their college education, and a loss of access to health care and nutrition for many struggling families. It also adds to a spiraling deficit already projected to reach \$640 billion by 2015. At the same time, Republicans will provide an average tax break of \$32,000 to the wealthy few. This is an outrage and should be an embarrassment for this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, America can do better. Congress should put forward a budget that is fiscally responsible, prioritizes our families, and does not threaten our children and grandchildren's future by increasing the Federal deficit.

I urge my colleagues to reject this irresponsible, immoral budget plan.

HONORING A WORLD WAR II HERO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sherman Dickholtz, a World War II hero, beloved husband and father, and valued member of the Illinois legal community. Mr. Dickholtz passed away on Saturday, December 3, 2005 at the age of 80.

As a member of the 17th Airborne Division, Sgt. Dickholtz distinguished himself as an infantryman, paratrooper and parachute rigger. He participated in campaigns in France and Germany including Operation Varsity, the last full-scale airborne drop of the World War II. On March 24, 1945, he and the other members of the 17th parachuted behind enemy lines east of the Rhine River, and capture key points in order to assist the advance of ground troops. Sgt. Dickholtz was awarded the Bronze Star for gallantry and meritorious service.

Upon his discharge from military service, Mr. Dickholtz went on to graduate from John Marshall Law School, working his way through school by driving a taxi for the Vets Cab Company. At that time, veterans were not able to obtain taxi medallions, and Mr. Dickholtz participated in a protest "cabalcade" of taxis from Chicago to Washington, DC to protest. Mr. Dickholtz gained national recognition for his participation when his picture was published in newspapers across the country.

Mr. Dickholtz had a successful career as an attorney, and in October of 2005 was conferred the title of Senior Counselor by the Illinois Bar Association. He was also a member of and proctor for the American MENSA Society.

Mr. Dickholtz's wife Darlene was not only legal secretary and office manager for her husband, but also his best friend. Together they raised seven children in a very busy and loving home.

Mr. Dickholtz was the proud grandfather of 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His family has continued his legacy of service and success in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Dickholtz will be dearly missed by his family and community. I am privileged to pay tribute to this great American.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3199, USA PATRIOT IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to explain my vote against a democrat motion to instruct conferees on December 14, 2005.

Although President Bush and Secretary Rice have made it clear that under no circumstance will the United States use torture, I am also sympathetic to Senator McCain's wish to establish a clear set of rules to govern interrogations of persons under the detention of the Department of Defense. With this said, I don't believe it is beneficial to instruct conferees on an issue that is already under negotiations between the White House, Senator McCain and the United States House of Representatives. These negotiations could yield a much more favorable outcome than what Senator McCain originally requested and it also undermines the legislative process. However, if no compromise is agreed to, I would support the McCain language as our policy toward torture.

IN MEMORY OF MIKE KOUNTOURIS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on December 4, 2005, a dear and beloved member of the Jackson, Mississippi community passed away.

Mike Kountouris has been as much the landmark to Jackson as his famous restaurant

the Mayflower Cafe, where he had worked since 1935.

An immigrant from Greece, Mike and his family lived the story of America. They came to this land and worked hard to become honored citizens. Mike served in World War II, fighting in the United States Army in his home country of Greece where he was wounded and awarded the Purple Heart. He and his family—those before him and now his children—poured their sweat and passion for life into their family business. The Mayflower has been for generations a place where families and celebrities, politicians and journalists, the young and old have come for good food and fellowship. From first dates to wedding anniversaries, Mike made this a center of the Jackson community by making family the focus of his business.

Mr. Speaker, Mike began his journey in this world on the island of Patmos and we in Mississippi were blessed that he ended the journey not only in Jackson, Mississippi, but the hearts of his family, friends and customers. I take this time to remember Mike Kountouris and to remind my fellow Mississippians of the impact that one man can have on a community. He was a special man that we will all miss.

RECOGNIZING THE WOMEN OF TOMORROW MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program, an incredible organization located in my Congressional district, and congratulate its founders, Jennifer Valoppi and Don Browne, for being named recipients of Governor Jeb Bush's Points of Light Award.

This award is the State's highest honor given to those who dedicate themselves to the Florida community through acts of volunteerism.

Since its inception in 1997, the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program has been a pioneer institution for inspiring at-risk young women to achieve their fullest potential through education and job training.

As a result of the organization's efforts, young women throughout our community can receive positive guidance and mentoring from professional women in South Florida.

The Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program is a perfect example of individuals uniting to improve the lives of our community's youth, and I am proud of all those who are associated with this remarkable organization.

HONORING MATTHEW SCOTT

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroism of a man

named Matthew Scott who nearly 9 years ago performed an act of uncommon courage that saved the life of a young woman in my congressional district.

In August of 1997 a 15-year-old woman and her friend were out driving a truck near a very dangerous area in my congressional district called Deception Pass. The road was dark, and the two girls could not see the road in front of them. Leslie, the driver, yanked her steering wheel in the wrong direction and drove off a 185-foot cliff into the freezing ocean below. Her passenger managed to jump from the truck at the last second before it went over the edge. At the same time, Matthew Scott, a young Naval Chief Petty Officer, was driving by the location when he spotted a busted guardrail, and a hysterical group of people pointing to the ocean below.

Matthew does not consider himself a hero. On that night in 1997, he was just there for another human being—a young girl he had never met. He scaled down a treacherous, dark cliff with only a small flashlight to guide him. At the bottom of his remarkable 185-foot descent, he swam 30 yards out in strong tides and frigid water to rescue young Leslie. She was in bad shape. Leslie suffered a broken back, leg, and arm and had numerous cuts and bruises covering her body.

Because of his selfless, courageous heroics—Leslie is now 24-years-old and the manager of a local coffee shop. She is also the mother of a little girl and an upstanding member of her community.

Matthew Scott has continued to dedicate his life to one of military service. He is now a Lieutenant studying for his MBA at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California.

Those who know Lt. Scott talk about his everyday heroics. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am honored to have had Lt. Scott serve at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington state's 2nd Congressional District. He is the truest face of our U.S. Navy. Every day he honors what is described as the Navy's unofficial motto—"not self but country."

Lt. Scott has spent his life serving his country. That dark night in 1997 was no different. But that night he served his country and his fellow Americans in a personal and profound way. Off duty, he still put his own life at risk to save the life of another.

For this, I come to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to honor him and call on all of my colleagues to look to Matthew's example to inspire us and spur us on to our own acts of selfless service and care.

Because of Matthew's humble heroics, Leslie is alive today.

Matthew is not just a good father—not just a good sailor—he's a good person. And he is a true hero.

ago, when the House was not expected to be in session during December.

RECOGNIZING JOHN CORRERO

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, for many who attend and serve Mississippi State University, the university is more than an institution, it is a family. Today I would like to recognize and honor one of the most dedicated members of that family who is retiring from work, but never as a Bulldog.

This summer, John Corroero retired from his position as Alumni Director of the MSU Alumni Association after serving the school for over 35 years and being associated with Mississippi State for over four decades.

He began his partnership with MSU as a student earning academic honors with three years as Varsity Football Letterman. John was President of the Campus "M" Club; President of the Kappa Delta Pi (National Honor Society in Education); and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership and Scholarship Society), Blue Key (National Leadership and Scholarship Society), Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, President's and Dean's Scholar and was chosen Mr. Mississippi State University. He earned a B.S. Degree in Physical Education from MSU in 1962 and stayed at the school to conduct graduate studies, earning a Masters in Educational Administration and Counseling in 1964. During that time he served as a graduate assistant and as freshman football coach at Mississippi State.

John served as Executive Director of the Mississippi State University Alumni Association since 1994. Previously he served as Associate Director of the Alumni Association (1975–1994) and Field Secretary of the Alumni Association (1969–1975).

John is a dedicated member of the community serving on numerous Starkville City and Oktibbeha County boards and organizations. He and his wife Gloria Collum Corroero are committed members of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Gloria, like their two children Kimberly Ann Fandel of Tupelo and Chris of New Orleans, is a Mississippi State graduate.

Mr. Speaker, John Corroero's legacy and dedication to Mississippi State University is a family tradition and an example for Bulldogs old and young. We are proud and thankful of his lifetime of service and Mississippi State University is a better institution because of his hard work.

I met Carroll Campbell when we were both elected delegates at the State Republican Convention in 1972 for the National Convention in Miami Beach. We were delegates when I hired fellow delegate Lee Atwater of Newberry College to organize college campuses to work with Carroll in the Upstate to elect President Richard Nixon.

In 1975, as Executive Assistant to Governor Jim Edwards, South Carolina's first Republican Governor, I worked closely with Carroll and accountant Wagdy Demian to reform the irregularities at the Department of Social Services. Our meetings were in hallways due to concern of monitoring in offices and Mr. Demian courageously provided whistleblower information despite an attempt on his life.

In 1985, I was the first State Senator to endorse his candidacy for Governor and I worked independently with State Senators Ryan Shealy and Warren Giese to recruit Congressman Tommy Hartnett for Lieutenant Governor and developed the Dream Team of two candidates with the highest integrity and ability.

In 1986, the gubernatorial campaign was a historic breakthrough which fostered a Republican majority in the State. Working with Bob McAllister and Warren Tomkins, I researched, developed, and publicized with State Senators David Thomas and Bill Branton, the sweetheart leases of Democrat officials with state agencies at "The Good Old Boys Tower." After the election, Governor Campbell renegotiated the leases, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

In 1990, I was grateful to work with the Campbell staff and irate Democrats uncovering purchasing irregularities at the State Department of Education, explaining the need to elect a new State Superintendent. Working with Representative David Wright, we were slammed as "Hatchet and Tomahawk" by Democrats, but the efforts prevailed to elect Barbara Nielsen as the State's first Republican Superintendent, who served with great distinction.

During the two terms of the Campbell Administration, I was honored to serve as floor leader for his initiatives in the State Senate. The highlight was to address the power failure of state government with restructuring. Working with Chamber leader Paula Harper Bethea, Democrat Lt. Governor Nick Theodore, Senator David Thomas and Senator Greg Ryberg, we were successful. Due to the House leadership of Rep. David Wilkins, we were able to pass a bill despite determined opposition who were opposed to the reforms and devoted to tarnishing the Campbell legacy of success.

The following obituary is a full tribute to Governor Campbell. This tribute ran in the The Post and Courier of Charleston, South Carolina, on December 9, 2005.

CARROLL CAMPBELL, JR.

Carroll Ashmore Campbell, Jr., beloved husband, father, grandfather and former two-term South Carolina governor who led the economic and political transformation of his home state, died of cardiac arrest Wednesday at a Lexington health care facility after a five year struggle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 65.

Born July 24, 1940 in Greenville to Carroll Sr. and Anne Williams Campbell, he was a lifelong learner himself, educated in Greenville's public schools and graduated from the McCallie School in Tennessee. As a teenager,

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, my absence from the House chamber for today's votes and any held this weekend is due to my attending my daughter's wedding in Salt Lake City, Utah. The wedding was scheduled months

HONORING GOVERNOR CARROLL CAMPBELL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, all South Carolinians have mourned the loss of former Governor Carroll Campbell. As a longtime friend, I especially appreciate his service.

he paid his own way to attend college part-time at the University of South Carolina-Spartanburg. He continued his education while in Congress, taking classes in the evening and earning a master's degree in political science and the award for outstanding scholarship at the graduate level from the School of Government and Public Administration at American University. One professor told friends in later years that Campbell was the only public official who had taken the class without having staff members do the classwork. He also held ten honorary doctorate degrees and received numerous business and public service awards.

Despite accomplishing reforms on behalf of millions of fellow South Carolinians, Carroll Campbell took his greatest pride in the achievements and love of a few. His family—a wife of 46 years, two sons and their wives and four grandchildren—were his strength and comfort. Iris and Carroll Campbell married in 1959 and soon became known in Greenville for their delight in the company of friends and their shagging to the beach music Carroll had learned and loved as a young lifeguard during high school summers in Myrtle Beach.

At 19, while working in the real estate business, he cofounded a successful chain of parking facilities. In 1967, he was co-founder of a business that developed a chain of 13 Burger King restaurants. He later became an active breeder of Arabian horses, owning and operating a farm near Fountain Inn in the Seventies. Later, along with his sons and others, he owned a chain of 19 Wendy's restaurants throughout South Carolina.

He was first elected to public office in 1970 as a member of the South Carolina State House of Representatives. Mr. Campbell served there until 1974. Running in a 1976 special election, he won a seat representing Greenville in the state Senate.

In 1978, Carroll Campbell was elected to the United States Congress from South Carolina's fourth congressional district, the first Republican since reconstruction to hold that seat. He served in Congress until 1986.

Campbell was elected as governor of South Carolina in 1986 and re-elected in 1990. Job creation, strong economic growth, education reform and fiscal conservatism were the hallmarks of his administration.

In 1995, Mr. Campbell became President and CEO of the American Council of Life Insurers, the trade arm of the life insurance industry. He retired from that position in January 2002. He served on the board of directors for BMW International, Fluor Corporation, AVX Corporation, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Wackenhut Corporation, TRAC Racing and the Boy Scouts of America.

In an October 2001 letter to the people of South Carolina, Mr. Campbell announced his diagnosis and plans to fight the disease. He was an active supporter of the Alzheimer's Association in South Carolina, raising funds for the association and for the care facility that bears his name and where he spent his final days.

Surviving are his wife Iris, his son Carroll III and wife Elizabeth; son Mike and his wife Ruffin, and four grandchildren, Blakeney Herlong Campbell, Carroll Barrett Campbell, Michael Rhodes Campbell and Marie Riley Campbell, all of Columbia. He is also survived by Anne Mangum, Mary Carpenter, Elizabeth Tatum, and Caroline Campbell.

Instead of flowers, the Campbell family asks that donations be made to the South Carolina Alzheimer's Association, Attention: Carroll Campbell Respite Program, PO Box 7044, Columbia, SC 29202. The Respite Program helps family members relieve the stress they may experience while providing care for a loved one with Alzheimer's.

The governor's body will lie in state on the second floor of the State House between the

House and Senate chambers from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Friday, December 9. The viewing is open to the public. Members of the S.C. Army and Air National Guard will serve as honor guards during this time.

The funeral will be held Saturday, December 10, at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Columbia. The body will be taken by caisson. The funeral will be open to the public, though seating will be very limited.

After the Columbia funeral, the body will be taken to All Saints Episcopal Church at Pawley's Island for a brief service inside the church at 4 p.m., followed by burial in the church cemetery. This service, too, will be open to the public, though seating will be very limited.

Pallbearers will be officers representing SLED, the Department of Natural Resources and the S.C. Highway Patrol. Members of his former security detail will be honorary pallbearers.

Dunbar Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Visit our guestbook at www.charleston.net/deaths.

PROVIDING THAT HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS HELD BY PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for joining me in introducing this critical resolution, which states unequivocally that Hamas should not be permitted to participate in the upcoming Palestinian elections unless it disarms, renounces terrorism, ceases incitement and recognizes Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state.

Since its establishment in 1987, Hamas has used terrorism as a means of achieving its primary political goal—that is, the destruction of Israel. Hamas has masterminded and carried out numerous terrorist attacks, and are responsible for maiming thousands and killing hundreds of innocent Israelis in addition to 26 Americans.

As we approach the Palestinian parliamentary election on January 25, Hamas has opted to participate—for the first time—in the political process. While this presents a unique opportunity for the Palestinian Authority to delineate red lines for political participation—including the denunciation of terror and disarming of militant groups—no preconditions have been set. Instead, the Palestinian Authority has sat by as Hamas continues to assert its right to run for the parliament as a means of promoting its unconscionable agenda of incitement and terror against Israel.

The upcoming Palestinian election presents a critical test for President Mahmoud Abbas, who has, thus far, failed to dismantle terrorist organizations such as the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hamas. The recent suicide bombing in Netanya served as a painful reminder that Mr. Abbas's plan for "one authority, one gun" has yet to be realized, and this resolution is intended to send him a message that he must translate empty rhetoric into concrete action on the ground.

The disarmament of Hamas and the true implementation of "one authority, one gun" is in

the best interest of the Palestinian people, and the essential first step toward creating an atmosphere conducive to peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical issue, I was unable to vote yesterday on rollcall No. 633, H. Res. 602, providing for the consideration of H.R. 2830, the Pension Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE TERESA LANAM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Natalie Teresa Lanam, a distinguished and beloved resident of San Mateo County, CA, who died on December 8, 2005, after a long battle with cancer.

Natalie Lanam was a native of San Francisco's Mission District and her Mexican heritage was a source of great pride to her. She was a faith-filled woman who was respected throughout our community for her decades of volunteerism and for the professionalism she brought to every effort she was associated with.

Natalie Lanam was an effective fund-raiser for the causes she held dear. She volunteered for local schools and Easter Seals, and she was best known for her commitment to providing legal services for anyone who needed them, regardless of their ability to pay. For more than 15 years she volunteered for the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County and her efforts were honored by the society when they named their building the Natalie Lanam Criminal Justice Center.

Natalie Lanam is survived by her husband of 55 years, the Honorable Bill Lanam who served with distinction on the Superior Court in San Mateo County and who was first elected as a result of Natalie's superb organizing efforts. Natalie and Bill's family of 4 daughters, 2 sons, 17 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren are a testament to the values of Natalie Lanam and her special gifts to the world God has called her from.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a remarkable woman for her lifetime of devotion to her family, her faith, her community and her country and extending our deepest condolences to Judge Lanam and the entire Lanam family.

RECOGNIZING LEWIS F. MALLORY, JR.

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of

Starkville, Mississippi's great citizens, in fact, an outstanding businessman recognized across the entire state and a family man of great reputation. Lewis F. Mallory, Jr., is chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the National Bank of Commerce, now known in Mississippi as Cadence Bank. He was inducted this year into the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame.

Lewis has been a leader in Mississippi banking circles for decades, and has been very successful in leading his bank through a period of tremendous growth. When Lewis began his career, his bank had about \$8 million in assets, two locations and 20 employees. Today, he has \$1.4 billion in assets in 32 offices in 12 communities throughout Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. The company provides jobs for more than 475 people with earnings to exceed \$14 million.

Lewis grew up on the campus of Mississippi State University where his father served as Vice President for Business Affairs. He graduated from MSU with special honors in 1965 with a degree in Banking and Finance and a minor in Economics. While in college, Lewis was a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Beta Gamma Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi, and Omicron Delta Kappa.

Currently, Lewis is a member of the Board of Directors, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Mississippi Economic Council, Mississippi State University Foundation, Mississippi Catholic Foundation, Greater Starkville Development Partnership and is on the Senior Executive Advisory Council for the College of Business and Industry at Mississippi State University.

Lewis is a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Starkville and he and his wife Pie are the parents of two sons, Marcus and Lewis F. III.

Mr. Speaker, Lewis Mallory is a highly respected businessman and community leader and he thrives on promoting Starkville and Oktibbeha County. I commend him on his selection to the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame and I am proud that he is one of my constituents.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT SYMBOLS AND TRADITIONS OF CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE PROTECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Madam. Speaker, I am troubled and disappointed that this resolution concerning Christmas is before the House today. It is a solution in search of a problem, it is divisive, and it comes at the cost of substantive issues that should be addressed.

There is a sad irony in this resolution. Christmas is supposed to be a season of goodwill, bringing people together, a holiday that brings out the best in us, and encourages us to reach out to our fellow man. Instead, this resolution was created simply so the Majority could pat itself on the back. It is a straw man, and should not have been considered by the House because it is needlessly divisive and inappropriate.

It comes as a surprise to no one, I'm sure, that as a Christian, I support and look forward to celebrating Christmas with my friends and family. But this is beside the point. More importantly, I support and respect the right of my fellow citizens to celebrate religion as they chose.

The House floor should not be manipulated so one group or members can revel in their own sanctimony. What makes America a great and free society is our system of government and our Constitution, which provides each citizen with broad, basic rights and freedoms. One of these is freedom of religion. This right treats all religions, and the lack of religion, equally. Yet today in this resolution, the House singles out one religion over the others, and defends one religious holiday at the expense of others. I wish this resolution had not come to the floor.

Just over a month ago, the House of Representatives unanimously supported a resolution that I sponsored which stressed the need for continuing interreligious dialogue and respect. Rather than "protecting" one specific religious holiday, we should protect and defend all of them. And we should honor the right of every citizen to celebrate or not celebrate these religious holidays as they chose. We should support and protect Hanukkah, Kwanza, Diwali, and all other religious holidays. It is my experience that the American people are much more respectful of each other's differences than the House may believe. They do not need to be told to respect the symbols of Christmas. They already do, just as they respect other religions.

Rather than creating a false argument over Christmas, the House should honor the spirit of Christmas through its own actions. Christmas is not about trees and candy canes, it is about a spirit of giving and helping those who need help. If the House wants to do something about Christmas, it should protect the various federal programs the Majority is trying to cut, such as food stamps, Medicaid, and money to help low income families pay their home heating bills. Ending the cuts on these essential programs for the poor and disadvantaged in our society would truly honor Christmas.

I will vote present on this resolution because it does not belong on the House floor.

PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the House today passed the Pension Protection Act. I voted in favor of this legislation, though with great reservation.

The Pension Protection Act is a comprehensive attempt to reform our Nation's pension laws. Congress is taking up this issue in the wake of several major corporations defaulting on their pension plans. American workers are crying out for assistance as their nest eggs, for which they've worked their entire lives, are shrinking before their very eyes. I don't think anyone can argue the fact that something must be done.

But H.R. 2830 is a far cry from what is needed to place our pension system on a

strong foundation. I am concerned that the workers in many of our Nation's oldest industries are going to lose out when this legislative process shakes out. I am concerned that the future of the defined benefit—and the future of the worker's nest egg built through a defined benefit plan—is in jeopardy. And I am concerned that companies will continue to be able to dump their negotiated pension plans through bankruptcy proceedings.

Today's bill does not go far enough in alleviating my concerns.

However, I can tolerate this legislation for the simple reason that it gives us an opportunity to go to conference and improve this bill. And improve it we must—or I will be unable to support final passage on a conference agreement.

Today's debate was a needed and necessary exercise. But as we look to conference, we must remain focused on protecting the retirement dreams, and indeed the American dream, to which so many of our workers look forward.

If the conference report doesn't include the silver lining of pension protection our workers will depend upon in their golden years, I will be unable to support this bill on final passage.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT RALPH J. CELENTO III SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a great American, Chief Master Sergeant Ralph J. Celento III. I honor him today for his 30 years of service in the United States Air Force.

Chief Celento's most recent assignment was flight chief, vehicle operations for the 99th Logistics Readiness Squadron, 99th Mission Support Group, 99th Air Base Wing, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. In this position Chief Celento was responsible for all enlisted matters and he assisted the flight commander in daily missions. In addition, Chief Celento directed over 150 personnel, ten sections, and ensured that vehicle management services to Nellis AFB were complete.

Chief Celento was born in Rochester, New York and entered the Air Force in 1976. His Air Force career has included assignments in various transportation and logistical programs on bases in North Carolina, California, Washington, Maryland, and Mississippi. Chief Celento also served overseas in Japan, Germany and the Republic of Korea.

Chief Celento has been awarded over 19 major awards and decorations during his distinguished service in the Air Force including the Bronze Star, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and more.

Chief Celento's accomplishments also include the White House Communication Agency Award, Best Vehicle Operations Flight in Air Education and Training Command, Verne

Orr Award for Most Productive Unit, and the Best Vehicle Operations Flight in the Pacific Air Forces Command among others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I salute Chief Celento for his service and dedication to our great nation.

RECOGNIZING THE DECATUR TELEPHONE COMPANY

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, small and family businesses are the backbone of America's economy. Today I want to recognize one of these family institutions that serve a community in Newton County, Mississippi. In this day of international mergers and billion dollar telecommunication deals, it is wonderful to see a small and stable company continue to provide telephone service to customers after sixty years in the same family. If I may, let me quote from The Newton Record's November 23, 2005 issue and article titled "Decatur Telephone marks 60 years" by Kenneth Billings.

Few enterprises are fortunate enough to reach a milestone one local business will celebrate next month when its owners celebrate more than half a century of operating the business. On Dec. 5, Bill and Louise Bailey will mark their 60th year as owners of the Decatur Telephone Company and the continuation of a family legacy begun in 1945.

"In a way it seems like any other day," Louise Bailey said of the upcoming anniversary. "Sometimes I can't believe it has really been that long. The office has been a part of home so long it is sort of an extension of what we do everyday."

The Baileys purchased the company shortly after Bill returned home from the military and began seeking a vocation. They purchased the company and all 46 customers from Katie Perkins in 1945 and began what would grow into a family legacy.

Over the years they nurtured the business and in 1976 earned the distinction of becoming the first telephone company in the world to be completely digital. Today, Decatur Telephone boasts more than 2,500 customers in the central part of Newton County.

Bill, 84, and Louise, 83, still take an active part in the business, but in recent years have begun to cut back. No longer is all day spent at the helm of the business as they prepare to pass the reins to other family members to carry on the legacy of the business.

Although their son, Mark has gone on to a career in medicine after spending summers at the company as he grew up, their daughter and company Vice President Esther Smith is preparing to take control when time comes for her parents to fully retire. Smith said taking up the family business seemed the natural thing for her to do having spent most of her life inside the offices of the company.

"I have grown up here," she said. "I remember when I would walk 'home' this is where I came. While momma and daddy worked I went into the storeroom and played. I even one time tried to memorize the entire phone book because I thought that was what I had to do."

"Daddy was always so good to look into future. He was a real visionary business person. In the world, technology changes so fast and he was making advances for the company at a critical time. I just hope I can continue on the path daddy started."

The Bailey's said an all-day open house is set for Dec. 5 at the Decatur Telephone Company for customers and friends to join with them in celebrating their anniversary with finger foods and refreshments available.

Mr. Speaker, this month marks 60 years of Bailey Family telephone service to Decatur, Mississippi and hope they will continue for many more decades to come. They make it possible for my constituents to call here to Washington, DC and participate in the great American experiment, the democratic debate of our Congress. They are able to call around the world and down the street. It may be technology that makes it possible, but it could not be done without the hard work of folks like Bill and Louise Bailey and their family.

COMMENDATION FOR ROGER EASTON, NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY RECIPIENT

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate New Hampshire resident Roger Easton for receiving the National Medal of Technology, America's highest honor for technological achievement.

More importantly, I would like to commend Mr. Easton for four decades of distinguished service to the field of navigation technology and to our Nation. His numerous inventions, from the Minitrack satellite tracking system to the "Navigation System Using Satellites and Passive Ranging Techniques," provided the foundation for the development of the Global Positioning System (GPS) in widespread use today. This crucial technology initially advanced the capacity and effectiveness of U.S. satellites, in addition to providing a measure of increased security in the Cold War era by enabling our military to track unknown objects orbiting the Earth. Mr. Easton's ground-breaking inventions have subsequently inspired the use of GPS technology in the civilian sector, including the system's adaptation for usage in commercial airplanes and personal automobiles.

His contributions as a public servant are equally noteworthy, having served two terms as a colleague of mine in the New Hampshire State Legislature and three terms on the Board of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative. The National Medal of Technology could not have been bestowed on a more deserving individual, and it is an honor to offer this outstanding contributor to America's economic, environmental, and social well-being my heartfelt congratulations.

STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF RESPONSE BY AMERICA'S SECOND HARVEST TO HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the destruction caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

was devastating. More than one thousand people died and thousands of Gulf Coast residents lost their homes in these storms. As we now know, the Federal Government's reaction and response was woefully inadequate. We've seen how FEMA was ill-equipped to handle the catastrophes caused by these massive storms. We know that the then-Administrator of FEMA, Michael Brown, was the wrong choice to head such an important agency and we know that the lives of these Gulf State residents will never be the same because, in part, of the botched Federal response.

The responses to these hurricanes weren't all bad. The residents of the gulf coast were fortunate that there are non-profit organizations that were able to step in and provide the basic services and care to the victims of these storms.

One such group, America's Second Harvest, was a beacon of hope during and after the storm, providing food and water to the victims. America's Second Harvest is the nation's largest hunger-relief charity, and their truckloads of food and water helped support food banks and food-rescue organization in the gulf coast and other impacted areas.

Yesterday, December 15th, America's Second Harvest released a report documenting the impact of emergency food distribution in the wake of these devastating storms. Specifically, this report details the depth and breadth of the impact of the Gulf region hurricane disasters on the charitable food distribution system and the clients it serves. This report shows that demand for emergency food assistance in the Gulf Coast tripled following Hurricane Katrina. Just as startling is the finding that the demand for emergency food assistance continues to be more than fifty percent higher than it was before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The study also confirms what we know—that low income families and African Americans were disproportionately impacted by the hurricane disasters.

I'm a co-chair of the House Hunger Caucus, a group I helped form to focus on and educate Members of Congress about the issue of hunger. Two days ago, the Caucus hosted a briefing on the food distribution response—Federal Government and private groups—to the hurricanes. What we learned is that we need to tighten up the system. We need to cut red tape so that food and water is on the ground, ready to go into impacted areas right away. We need to educate people in disaster-prone areas so they have adequate supplies of food, water and other necessities.

And we need to make sure that the Federal Government and private groups have clear lines of communication and that there are real plans in place so that the relief and recovery can begin immediately after a disaster. There will be disasters. According to experts, the Gulf Coast is only a mild tropical storm away from being devastated once again. We must take the lessons learned from Katrina and Rita, apply to them now, and get ready for the next natural disaster that will strike.

This report, and the expertise of America's Second Harvest, is a good first step and I'd like to commend Bob Forney and his staff at America's Second Harvest for their work on it and for their dedication to combating and ending hunger in America. As we look into the successes and failures in the days leading up to and the days, weeks and months following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, this report should

play a critical role in the education of the American people, as well as the U.S. Congress, as to how America's emergency food networks responded to these natural disasters. Copies of the report can be found on America's Second Harvest website (www.secondharvest.org).

**CONDEMNING ACTIONS BY SYRIA
REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION
OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF
LEBANON**

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. ISSA and Mr. LANTOS for joining me in introducing this critical resolution, which condemns Syrian efforts to hinder the investigation into the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Hariri, expresses support for extending the mandate of the investigative commission, and supports punitive sanctions against Syria if it continues to fail to comply with the ongoing investigation.

On February 14, 2005, former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was assassinated in a vicious terrorist attack in Beirut, Lebanon that killed 22 and injured more than 100. In response, the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 1595, establishing an international commission to investigate this attack and demanding the full compliance of all U.N. member states with the investigation.

This commission—led by German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis—released its initial findings in a report that implicated senior Syrian officials in the Hariri assassination. This past week, a second report was released that exposed Syrian efforts to impede and obstruct the investigation, including misleading the commission, providing falsified accounts and threatening those involved in the investigation. At this juncture, we must hold the Syrian regime accountable for their actions and demand Syrian compliance with the ongoing investigation.

Since the assassination of Prime Minister Hariri, targeted assassinations aimed at intimidating Lebanese opponents of Syria have continued unabated. Just this past week, a prominent and well-respected journalist was killed in a car-bombing in Beirut. Make no mistake; this was a clear attempt to limit freedom of the press in Lebanon on the part of the Syrian regime.

This resolution does just that. It supports the findings of the Mehlis report, condemns the Syrian Government for its apparent involvement in the assassination of former Prime Minister Hariri and others, and demands Syrian compliance. It also supports U.S.-led efforts to hold Syria accountable for its role in the Hariri assassination under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which leaves the door open for sanctions.

As the U.N. considers the grave and far-reaching implications of the Mehlis report, I strongly support critical and timely resolution.

HONORING FLORIDA STATE
SENATOR PAULA DOCKERY

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow public servant and dear friend, whose dedication and hard work has earned the admiration of not only the people of Florida, but public officials nationally as well. This is why I am proud to congratulate Florida State Senator Paula Dockery for her well-earned selection as Governing Magazine's 2005 "Public Official of the Year."

Senator Dockery was one of only eight public officials from across the country, and the only Florida official, to be so honored. She was recognized by Governing Magazine "in honor of her success in bringing diverse groups together to craft a sound and far-reaching water policy for the State of Florida." The magazine also stated "Since being elected to the House in 1996 and subsequently to the Senate, Dockery has demonstrated the ability to build consensus among groups with a history of contention." Senator Dockery has also recently been awarded "Legislator of the Year" by the American Water Works Association for her "outstanding leadership and dedication in developing water supply legislation for the people of Florida." Additionally, the Florida Ocean Alliance presented the Senator with an award of appreciation for sponsoring legislation that established the Florida Ocean and Coastal Resource Council noting her "leadership in sponsoring legislation to further conservation and management of ocean and coastal resources."

Yet, this is only a small portion of Senator Dockery's long history of bringing together disparate interests to craft sound environmental policy. As a defender of private property rights and protecting Florida's environmental resources, she constantly recognizes the importance of sound conservation principles in a rapidly growing State.

I had the opportunity to serve with Senator Dockery in the Florida State House of Representatives for 4 years, and it is her dedication to the common good, passion for legislating, and ability to inspire her colleagues, that has led the way to her success. In 1999, Senator Dockery authored the Florida Forever initiative, providing \$300 million a year to purchase land for preservation. Business interests and environmentalists both praised the program. In addition, she followed this initiative with the goal of developing a water plan for Florida. Spending much of 2003 and 2004 developing legislation to conserve water for Florida's future, Senator Dockery successfully led the passage of SB 444 in 2005, creating comprehensive water legislation that provides \$300 million to help local governments develop water supply through alternative resources.

The constituents of Senate District 15 and the State as a whole are extremely blessed to have her leadership serving them in Tallahassee. As the Senator continues to proudly serve the good people of Florida, I look forward to many more accomplishments as she continues to lead and guide the future of our great State.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMPANY
ALPHA, 2ND BATTALION, 112TH
ARMOR OF DENTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated group of soldiers from Denton, Texas, who have devoted their lives to saving our country and bringing freedom to the people of Iraq—the soldiers of Company Alpha, 2nd Battalion, 112th Armor of Denton.

Denton's Company A is part of the 3,000 members of the 56th Brigade Combat Team of the Texas National Guard's 36th Infantry Division, which recently turned over its command to the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Brigade Combat Team in Macon, Georgia.

Deployed in August of 2004, the soldiers from Denton trained at Fort Hood, Texas, through December of last year before embarking to Iraq. While in Iraq, they were stationed at Al Taqaddum, or "TQ" Airbase between Fallujah and Ramadi, Iraq.

During the year-long deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 56th Brigade took part in combat missions, humanitarian relief, convoy security and the recovery and destruction of munitions. They were engaged in more than 7,000 combat patrols, escorted convoys over 1.3 million miles and protected more than 150,000 civilian trucks. Most of the operations took place at night, and patrols lasted 12 to 14 hours. The soldiers encountered more than 330 improvised explosive devices while traveling on Iraqi roads, and the patrols were involved in more than 250 small-arms engagements.

These brave soldiers from Denton include: CPT Mark Christopher Grahmann, 1st LT Chester Lee Harbert, 1st SG Charles George Piatt, SFC Kevin Jay Brown, SSG Lonnie Ray Fuller, SGT Ryan Colby Erwin, SSG Michael Samson Bowen, SGT Andrew Culloden Bell, Chris William Coufal, SGT Ashley Brant Acevedo, SGT Shane Benjamin Walter, SPC John Christopher Britton, SPC Scott Alan Dolat, SSG Mark Steven Sims.

**BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT
ENHANCEMENT ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 280, the Brownfields Revitalization Enhancement Act. I want to thank Congressman MILLER from California for his hard work and dedication toward the issue of brownfields redevelopment. I look forward to working with Congressman MILLER in the future on this issue.

Brownfield sites are served by an existing infrastructure and through their remediation, urban sprawl can be reduced. Redeveloping brownfields could create 1.9 billion dollars annually in increased tax revenues for American cities.

H.R. 280 provides grant money to cities and towns to redevelop brownfield sites. This bill also detaches grant availability from section

108 loan guarantees, which allows more communities to have access to critical grant funds.

Mr. Speaker, we must clean up our Nation's brownfields. These contaminated sites are hazards to our communities, and through their remediation we can bring businesses and families back into American cities.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DENNY SCHAFER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO NORTHWEST OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a good friend of Northwest Ohio. In October of this year, the great city of Atlanta, Georgia received a gift of one of Ohio's adopted sons. After 25 years in radio, including more than a dozen years in Toledo, Denny Schaffer has become one of the newest Georgia Peaches.

A native of Flint, Michigan, Denny Schaffer dominated the Toledo radio market since his debut in 1993. After hosting the "Breakfast Club" on 92.5 KISS-FM for 10 years, Denny moved to 1370 AM WSPD's afternoon talk show. His biting commentary and political knowledge made Denny Schaffer one of the most listened to radio personalities in Toledo.

I had the privilege of appearing on Denny Schaffer's radio show on numerous occasions. Every time I was interviewed by Denny, I found him to be fair and knowledgeable of the political climate both in Northwest Ohio and in Washington. I know that Denny's quick wit and sharp mind will entertain the people of Atlanta and keep Georgia's politicians on their toes.

A frequent Fill-In Host for the nationally syndicated Glenn Beck Show, Denny's reputation in radio precedes him to Atlanta. Denny's devotion to God, his Family and his Country will serve the Atlanta listeners of WGST Radio well. For more than a decade, Denny has hosted charity events and encouraged his loyal fans to give freely to those in need. However, Denny's devotion as a loving husband and father is the best gift he can give. I am certain that Denny's legacy as a giving and big-hearted person will follow him to Atlanta.

I joined the thousands of saddened Northwest Ohioans this past August in learning that Denny Schaffer would no longer grace our airwaves. But we consider Denny our gift to the citizens of Georgia and know that they will be well served, and certainly entertained, by his commentary, his humor, and his ability to avoid FCC rebuke.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to an adopted Ohioan, Denny Schaffer. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am honored to recognize Denny's efforts to better our community. His impact on Northwest Ohio will remain in our minds long beyond his departure and we wish Denny, his wife Sharon, and their children Olivia and Joshua all our best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO ALL-AMERICAN HEROES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent these All-American heroes. Their dedication to democracy and their strength of character are to be admired and emulated:

SPC Michael Wayne Bennett, SSG Roy Edgar Bowers, SGT Shawn Michael Porter, SGT Carlos Antonio Garcia, SPC Terry Davinci Mitchell, SGT Eric Arthur Stevens, SGT Jason Eiron Sternberg, SGT Jerome Joseph Koehler, SPC Jacob Sterling May, SGT Warren Keith Moore, SPC David Frank Denbek, SPC Johnathan Lee Hicks, 1LT Brian Marsh Gallavan, 1LT Matthew Vance Isch, 1LT Richard Joseph Sabe, SFC David Edwin Hewett, SFC Hudson Martin Roberts, SSG James Alson Fountain.

SFC David Wayne Harris, SSG Jose Manuel Orozco, SSG Douglas Ray Taylor, SFC Robert Lloyd Thomas, SFC Mark White, SGT Jose Arias, SGT Robert James Bush Jr., SGT Anthony Ellis, SGT Paul Douglas Ford, SGT Christopher Joe Henry, SGT Jason Lee Martin, SGT Archie Lamont Price, SGT Edward E. Roelofs, SFT Kristopher Erik Townsend, SGT Curtis Lloyd VanHuss, SPC Joseph Ray Calhoun, SPC Joseph Andrew Carten, SPC Robert Junior Downs.

SGT Gregory Wayne Horn, Jr., SGT Nathan Andrew Lemmon, SGT Wayne Douglas Melton, II, SPC Victor Cazares Moqueda, Jr., SPC Daniel Patrick Rico, PFC Eric Alejandro Stanley, SPC Seth Thomas Tackett, SGT David Thomas Tolan, SPC Phillip James Easterling, SPC Ariel Daniel Garcia, SPC Matthew Alan Germain, SPC Nagaris Traion Johnson, SPC Raymond Gene Leger, SPC Keith Ryan McGriff, SPC Ernest Ronald McMichael, SGT Thomas Nelson Miner, SPC Joshua Roland C. Pierce, SGT Jeffrey Paul Rico, PFC Joshua Lee Walterscheid, SPC Robert Christopher Willis.

A TRIBUTE TO ANITA DEBREST

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Anita DeBrest as she reaches her 25th year as president of the COLT Coalition, a Philadelphia organization that she herself founded. Due to her tireless work, the COLT Coalition has built an impressive record in the past 25 years: it has developed many townhouses, including the first modular townhouse in Philadelphia, it has developed the St. Joseph's Apartment Building, and it has acquired many housing units to be used for low-income rental.

Ms. DeBrest's accomplishments are in no way limited to her time at the COLT Coalition. While this marks her 25th year as president of the COLT Coalition, it is also her 50th year of service to the Philadelphia community. Her list of achievements is a long and diverse one: first, in 1955, she created a school to teach girls etiquette and job skills, next moving on to become President of the Benjamin Franklin High School PTA, and later to become President of Tioga Homeowners Association and

the Tioga Nicetown CDC. She has been a member of the vestry of St. Simon's Church, and has taken on the role of Board Member in organizations ranging from the Nicetown Boys and Girls Club, to the Citizens of Tioga Nicetown, to both the Temple University Hospital and Jeans Hospital.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I extend my warmest congratulations to Anita DeBrest upon her 25th anniversary as president of the COLT Coalition; I also wish to express my deep gratitude for her many years of dedicated service to the community. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to recognize Ms. DeBrest for her many accomplishments.

THE DIGITAL TRANSITION
CONTENT SECURITY ACT OF 2005

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Digital Transition Content Security Act of 2005. This legislation is designed to close the "analog hole" that has arisen as a result of the transition to digital transmission technologies. The term "analog hole" refers to the use of devices to convert analog content into digital versions which can easily be uploaded onto the Internet. Although many of those who convert analog content into digital form are not engaging in any illegal conduct, there are unfortunately criminals who take advantage of existing deficiencies in current law and technology to obtain copyrighted content in order to redistribute this content for profit at the copyright owner's expense.

There is no doubt that piracy of intellectual property can be a profitable criminal activity. Just this week, a software pirate pled guilty in Alexandria, VA, to making \$20 million in sales of counterfeit intellectual property. The House Judiciary Committee has extensively examined efforts to strengthen and update intellectual property laws to address intellectual property theft made possible by new technologies. This legislation is no different.

The "analog hole" is unfortunately a potential source of pirated content that becomes an attractive target for pirates as high quality sources of content are made available to the public in high definition format. Congress is already considering another technology, the "broadcast flag," to address the redistribution of high definition content. The analog hole is its counterpart.

Congress has previously mandated the use of technology to limit and frustrate redistribution of video content. Enacted at 17 U.S.C. 1201(k) as part of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, Congress required the use and detection of Macrovision technology in several analog devices. This new legislation builds upon this existing law by mandating the detection and response to two separate technologies that work together to defeat pirates. The two technologies are the Content Generation Management System—Analog, CGMS-A, and Video Encoded Invisible Light, VEIL.

The timing for this legislation is readily apparent. New technologies have made the widespread redistribution of copyrighted content significantly easier. Some have referred to the Internet as the world's greatest copying

machine. While the Internet has without question been a huge benefit to society on a number of levels, some have used the Internet for criminal gain, notably the redistribution of copyrighted content without the copyright owner's permission. Enactment of the Digital Transition Content Security Act of 2005 will help ensure that the rights of copyright owners are respected.

The legislation would require that devices that convert analog content pass through the CGMS-A and VEIL content protection signals contained in the original version. To ensure that the technology used does not become outdated, the Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to conduct ongoing rulemakings to update the technology.

The Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property held a hearing on a discussion draft of this legislation last month. Witnesses from the Motion Picture Association of America, the Recording Industry Association of America, the Consumer Electronics Association, and Public Knowledge testified. Their testimony covered piracy issues generally as well as more specific issues regarding the legislation.

The bill I am introducing today makes several changes to the original discussion draft. Various provisions of the bill have been rewritten to ensure that the intent of the bill is clear. The references to several tables in the original draft have been clarified so that the Patent and Trademark Office develops these tables after an open, public rulemaking. The original draft had assumed that these tables would have been developed by the industry groups in time for the introduction of this legislation. This has not yet happened.

Finally, I urge all interested parties to continue to negotiate to see if a private sector solution can be fully developed to address the "analog hole." This issue is simply too important for parties to avoid negotiations. I look forward to working on this and other legislation to protect intellectual property in the second session of the 109th Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on December 14, 15, and 16, 2005, I was absent for several votes for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Vote No., description, vote: 626, motion to recommit, "no"; 627, adoption of PATRIOT Act conference report, "yes"; 628, adoption of Labor/HHS Approps conference report, "yes"; 629, motion to close portions of the Defense Approps conference, "yes"; 630, motion to instruct conferees, "yes"; 631, establishing the Task Force on Ocean Policy, "no"; 632, Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, "yes"; 633, on agreeing to the resolution, "yes"; 634, motion to recommit Pension Protection Act, "no"; 635, passage Pension Protection Act, "yes"; 636, on agreeing to the resolution, "yes"; 637, symbols and traditions of Christmas, "yes"; 638, observance of an American Jewish History Month, "yes"; 639, Jackson-Lee amendment, "no"; 640, Hunter amendment, "yes"; 641, Russian Federation

and nongovernmental organizations, "yes"; 642, close portions of the Defense Authorization Conference, "yes"; 643, motion to instruct conferees, "no"; 644, previous question, "yes"; 645, on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 619, "yes"; 646, on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 621, "yes"; 647, on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 294 as amended, "yes".

HONORING NATELEE BRINLEE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary young woman whose bravery and quick thinking saved her family from a devastating fire. Eight-year-old Natelee Brinlee is a hero in every sense of the word.

Natelee had been through the Irving Fire Department's Safety House where she learned how to implement life-saving measures during a fire emergency. When a fire started in her home, Natelee knew to call 911, and alertly woke up her uncle and brother. This heroism saved Natelee, her uncle and two brothers.

Natelee Brinlee showed maturity and bravery well beyond her 8 years. The recognition she is receiving is imminently well-deserved, and I know this is merely the first step of many bright years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GLENDALE CITY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Glendale City Seventh-Day Adventist Church on 100 years of outstanding service to the community.

On January 27, 1906, Conference President George W. Reaser and 29 individuals gathered in the parlor of the Glendale Sanitarium—formerly the grand old Glendale Hotel—to hold Glendale's first official Seventh-Day Adventist worship service. One year later, the Glendale Church School—now Glendale Adventist Academy—opened with 15 students. In 1911, a church building was purchased at what is now the corner of Wilson and Isabel streets. Membership grew rapidly and in 1919, the burgeoning congregation moved the church to land purchased at the corner of California and Isabel streets. For 11 years, this new building served its members well. Tragically in 1930, a fire broke out in the new church as a result of a boiler malfunction. Members quickly took on the task of raising funds to rebuild on the site. Two years later on April 16, 1932, the current Spanish style sanctuary was dedicated. The topic of Pastor Reaser's sermon in 1906 is now forgotten, but it is evident that the spark he ignited that day still shines at Glendale City Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Glendale City Seventh-Day Adventist Church has had 26 pastors over its 100-year

history. They have all been dedicated to outreach and service. The church prides itself on its deep commitment and passion to its surrounding community. The first contribution to the Glendale community was the Glendale Adventist Hospital. Shortly thereafter a private school was established and open to all. Additionally, the church offers free classes in topics such as health, cooking, and meditation. Locally, the church supports community efforts put forth by Glendale Adventist Medical Center, the AIDS Service Center in Pasadena, Project Achieve in Glendale, and the CINCO Job Development Center in Los Angeles just to name a few.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating the Glendale City Seventh-Day Adventist Church for 100 years of outstanding service to the city of Glendale and surrounding communities.

REMARKS ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address reports that one of America's key allies in the global war on terror, the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, is experiencing nascent strains of instability that will not only affect that country's capacity to continue its partnership with us in combating terrorism, but may have profound consequences for economic growth and the protection of civil liberties and political rights.

In 1991, the people of Ethiopia overthrew a brutal Marxist dictatorship that had terrorized the country for more than 15 years. That regime had used starvation as a tool to subjugate Ethiopia's people, impoverishing the very workers it claimed to represent, while enriching a totalitarian elite at the expense of the country's children.

The democratic revolution that deposed the dictatorship also resulted in independence for Ethiopia's neighbor, Eritrea. That event has led to its own problems, including a border dispute between the two countries that share a common history and many cultural values, but that is an issue to address on another day.

Today I wish to express my concern for the situation that has manifested itself in the past several months, since Ethiopia held elections for its Parliament, elections that resulted in an increase in the number of opposition legislators from 12 to 174. This remarkable advance in democracy occurred despite the fact that several opposition parties chose to sit out the election in protest.

Immediately after the election, a delegation led by former President Jimmy Carter reported:

The May 2005 elections, the third to be held under the current constitution, showed great promise in the deepening of Ethiopian democracy. For the first time in history the majority of Ethiopian voters were presented with choices when they went to the polls. We believe that Ethiopia has made tremendous strides toward democracy in the last several months, including more open debate, greater political participation, large rallies, and enormously high voter turnout on election day.

The results were not accepted by everyone with equanimity, however. Following the parliamentary elections, in which some 90 percent of registered voters went to the polls to cast their ballots (a figure that should be taken as instructive even for mature democracies such as our own), some opposition groups organized protest demonstrations in the capital city of Addis Ababa.

In an unfortunate series of events, Ethiopian police and security forces shot at the crowd, killing about 40 of the demonstrators. Then, in October, another demonstration took place, in which some of the protesters came armed with clubs and grenades, resulting in the death of six police officers and another 335 officers injured. Forty-six protesters were also killed.

In mass arrests that took place following these demonstrations, more than 11,000 people were detained on a range of criminal charges, from misdemeanor public disturbance to plotting to overthrow the government. Of these, 2,000 remain in jail, awaiting trials that are scheduled to be within the next few weeks. The Ethiopian government has assured us that all the detainees have access to legal counsel and contact with their families, and that due process of law will be followed in each and every case that comes before the courts.

Ethiopia's Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, established an independent commission to investigate the events and to bring recommendations for improving ways in which the police handle large crowds and demonstrations. He has stated publicly that he regrets the deaths, adding "I don't want to justify it when policemen get in a panic, but I can understand it when there are people throwing hand grenades and using guns."

These actions and assurances are very important, but the underlying situation remains disturbing. I would like to commend to my colleagues the recent remarks of Dr. Jendayi Frazer, who serves as assistant secretary of State for African Affairs. At a press briefing on December 5, Assistant Secretary Frazer was asked about the situation in Ethiopia, and she replied, in part, by saying:

We have condemned what's going on in Addis Ababa. We have done it here in Washington and our Ambassador, who is the Chargé, has done it in Addis Ababa. Basically, we've condemned the police shooting of demonstrators. We've condemned the broad-based arrests of demonstrators. So certainly we've been on—we are on the record as putting pressure on Prime Minister Meles to allow for greater freedom of assembly and certainly freedom of expression.

We have—my Deputy Assistant Secretary Don Yamamoto just returned from Ethiopia, in which he carried the same message to Prime Minister Meles and to the Foreign Minister. So we're continuing to hold the government accountable for allowing greater democratic space and respect for human rights.

That said, I must say also that it's the responsibility of the opposition as well because when the opposition takes stones and pelts the police forces, they have to respect the rule of law when they're demonstrating freely. And so I think that the responsibility—this is true of Ethiopia but it's true across Africa—there's responsibility that has to be there for both the opposition and for the government. Whereas we hold the governments even more accountable because they are supposed to be the upholders of the rule of law, we still must say when the opposition goes out of bounds as such.

And this is a very diverse opposition in Ethiopia. There are some who are demonstrating to sit in parliament, to create greater democratic space. There's others who are demonstrating to overthrow the government. And that's true that there are different—there are some who want to reclaim Eritrea.

So this opposition—there's democrats within the opposition and there are non-democrats within the opposition. I would say the same thing for the government. But still we hold the government more accountable for not allowing free demonstrations. We've called on the government to free the many who are jailed and we've called on them to free the leaders of the opposition who are in jail right now, who are detained. . . .

As I said, we've already pressured the Government of Ethiopia to release the detainees. We've been very, very clear. We've asked them to conduct free and transparent judicial processes for those who are not released and to allow international observers to be present at the trials. So we've been very clear and unequivocal in our message.

I met with Prime Minister Meles at the UN General Assembly with Under Secretary Nick Burns and we were very, very clear with Prime Minister Meles at that time. You know, that was prior to these demonstrations, but even at that time we were saying you have to respect the right of people, citizens of Ethiopia, to demonstrate freely and to express themselves freely, that there shouldn't be these wide-scale arrests.

And so we're going to continue. We have conversations constantly with members of the opposition. At the Africa Bureau at State Department we meet with them, we talk with them. We're meeting with them and talking with them and their families in Ethiopia. And so I think that we're very engaged. You know, we're continuing to put pressure. But I say this and I say this broadly and I'm not saying it about Ethiopia. I'm actually making a point about the progress of democracy in Africa. And the opposition also has to be responsible.

You know, and I'm saying this about—you know, across the continent. If you get—and this is—you know, the opposition in Ethiopia is a broad-based opposition. It's a coalition opposition. So I'm not speaking about any particular or in general. But I am saying that one of the elements of democratic progress that we need to see in Africa is real democrats in the opposition. You know, opposition leaders who want to be part of government; they want to be as democrats. You know, it's not personal. It's not sort of overthrowing governments. It's not—and I'm not—again, I want to be very clear. I'm not talking about Ethiopia here. I'm talking about oppositions in general.

As important as I see it in terms of the progress of democracy, we have to put a lot of emphasis on these independent national electoral commissions because they conduct the elections and they often count the votes. And so if we get these institutions to be credible, it will give greater confidence to civil society that they've had a free and fair election. So we need to strengthen these institutions. That's a key component of democratization. We need to hold accountable the governments that are not allowing a level playing field. We have to put more pressure on them to allow that level playing field.

And we also have to get the opposition to act responsibly. You know, many of them, as soon as they're about to lose, they then decide it was unfair or they decide to boycott because they know they're going to lose, you know. And so I think that there's all elements of society that are responsible for the progress of democracy.

Certainly in Ethiopia, we hold the government accountable. We've protested the arrests. We've protested the political violence with the Ethiopian Government and we are going to continue to do so. We're putting tremendous pressure on Prime Minister Meles.

(Source: State Department Washington File, December 7, 2005, "State's Frazer Heralds Spread of Democracy in Africa.")

Mr. Speaker, Assistant Secretary Frazer's remarks suggest a fair, balanced, and judicious approach to a sensitive and dynamic situation in Ethiopia. I urge my colleagues to monitor Ethiopia's emerging democracy in order to keep the pressure on both government and opposition there to respect the rule of law and protect civil liberties. This is important to U.S. interests because, to paraphrase the testimony of Ambassador Donald Yamamoto, stability in the Horn of Africa is a priority for the U.S. Government in the global war on terrorism.

PROVIDING THAT HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS HELD BY PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on December 14, 2005, the House voted on H. Res. 575, a resolution stating that Hamas should not be permitted to participate in Palestinian elections. I voted "no" because this resolution is based on a faulty premise; that democracies should limit who participates in elections.

First, I want to be clear: I unequivocally denounce and condemn any and all terrorist acts, whether committed by Hamas or any other terrorist group. I believe that the United States should do everything within its power to strengthen President Abbas's ability to establish and ensure respect for the rule of law, to demand that all individuals renounce violence, and to successfully disarm all militant groups.

Participation of Hamas in elections and integration of Hamas into mainstream Palestinian politics is a risky strategy. However, demanding that President Abbas exclude Hamas from participation—and threatening consequences if he does not meet this demand—also involves risks, including undermining the nascent Palestinian democracy and sparking more bloodshed and possibly even civil war.

There is no question that Hamas can and must be disarmed. However, I do not believe the best way to achieve this is necessarily through ultimatums. I believe that the administration and Congress should be working with President Abbas to strengthen his authority, bolster moderates, and ensure that his own strategy for taking on militants—from Hamas and from other parties, including his own Fatah—succeeds. Our shared vision is for a stable and democratic Palestinian state where views are expressed through legitimate political channels rather than violence—a state where there is, as President Abbas has repeatedly stated, one authority and one gun. Our goal must be to find ways to make this happen.

As the former military governor of the West Bank and Israeli Deputy Defense Minister,

Ephraim Sneh, wrote in the Washington Post on October 19, 2005: "Attempts to postpone the elections yet again, or to prevent Hamas's participation, or Israeli disruption of the elections as 'punishment' for the participation of Hamas, will strengthen Hamas in the Palestinian street instead of weakening it. The short time left before the elections must be used to empower all who oppose Hamas, first and foremost the supporters of the elected Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas."

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to doing all we can to support the fragile peace in the Middle East. Sabre-rattling resolutions like this are only counterproductive.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY THE NATIONAL SECURITY LETTER AND CONGRES- SIONAL OVERSIGHT ACT

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, two days ago, the House passed the conference report to H.R. 3199 reauthorizing certain expiring provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

The final bill failed to include adequate safeguards on national security letters, NSLs, which are requests for personal data and records issued directly by Government agencies without the approval of a judge.

NSLs have existed since the 1970s, but their use—primarily by the FBI—greatly expanded after 9/11. Using NSL authorities, the Government has collected and maintained data on thousands of Americans.

NSLs are important investigative tools, but their use has grown rapidly—and without adequate oversight.

NSLs may be issued by the FBI without asking a judge for a warrant. In this way, they differ from orders under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, for business records under section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, the so-called library provision. Section 215 orders must be approved by a Federal judge.

NSLs have been characterized as "back doors" for obtaining library and other records that may not be available under FISA. If 215 orders can be called "fishing licenses," then NSLs allow fishing without a license.

Defenders of NSLs liken them to grand jury subpoenas. However, they are different in important respects. First, grand jury subpoenas may only be issued by a U.S. Attorney as officer of the court. NSLs may be issued by an FBI agent in the field without any review by a jury or court. Second, grand jury subpoenas may only be issued after suspicion that a Federal crime has occurred; for NSLs, the standard is much lower—requiring only that the information sought is "relevant" to a national security investigation.

Congressional oversight of NSLs is almost nonexistent. Congress receives a classified one-page summary listing aggregate numbers of NSLs at least 6 months after they are issued. These reports are essentially meaningless and are the only oversight Congress at present exercises.

Clearly, there is a need to reform NSL standards and processes. This bill addresses

this need by incorporating checks and balances on the front-end and back-end of the process.

On the front-end, the bill: Restores the pre-Patriot Act standard for issuing NSLs: the government must show a specific connection to a terrorist or foreign power before an NSL could be issued; requires approval of each NSL by a FISA Court or designated federal magistrate judge; requires the FISA Court to set up an electronic system for filing NSL applications, so that requests are expedited and investigations will not be slowed down.

On the back-end, the legislation: Provides a Sense of Congress that, in cases where an NSL recipient challenges the "gag"/non-disclosure requirement, the government's certification that harm to national security will occur shall be treated as a "rebuttable" presumption, not as "conclusive" evidence that harm would occur; requires minimization procedures to ensure destruction of information obtained through NSL requests that is no longer needed; and requires detailed semi-annual reports to the Congressional Intelligence and Judiciary Committees on all NSLs issued, minimization procedures, court challenges, and how NSLs aided investigations and prosecutions.

We must arm our investigators with the tools to catch terrorists, spies and others who threaten our national security. But, we must do so in a manner that protects the cherished liberty and privacy expectations of U.S. citizens.

This legislation will not hobble the investigative process nor hamper our pursuit of the terrorists. It will impose much-needed accountability and oversight.

TRIBUTE TO HUBERT WILKENS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate and pay tribute to Hubert Wilkens of Concordia, MO, who recently received the Safe Driver Award from OATS Public Transportation. He has distinguished himself and the Concordia community with dedicated service.

Hubert Wilkens was given the Safe Driver Award for 4 years of driving the OATS bus without an accident. Mr. Wilkens picks up senior citizens from the city of Concordia and the outlying rural area. He transports them to the grocery store, doctor, chiropractor, dentists appointments and to the Concordia Senior Center.

Mr. Speaker, Hubert Wilkens has been dedicated to making the City of Concordia a better place to live. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing him and his wife Eunice all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained earlier today and therefore missed the vote on House Resolution 534.

Were I able to vote, I would have voted in support of the resolution.

RECOGNITION OF THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON EVALUATION, STANDARDS, AND STUDENT TESTING (CRESST)

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the University of California at Los Angeles' (UCLA) Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST) for their work in helping to improve education performance.

For more than 30 years, the UCLA Center for the Study of Evaluation (CSE) and, more recently, CRESST, have been on the forefront of efforts to improve the quality of education, training, and learning in America. Located within UCLA's Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, CSE/CRESST has pioneered the development of scientifically based evaluation and testing techniques, vigorously promoting the accurate use of data, test scores, and technology for improved accountability and decision making. Their work has been used in both civilian and military learning sectors. CRESST has created products used by schools serving millions of students and adopted force wide by the Armed Services. They are also an internationally recognized leader in education assessment and evaluation.

UCLA/CRESST is truly a center of excellence for educational research, development, and evaluation. I look forward to their being able to continually serve our great country and to assisting the numerous federal agencies that need effective and objective education and training research, development, and evaluation techniques.

RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE CHIEF DEPUTY C. PHILLIP BYERS FOR BEING SWORN IN AS SHERIFF OF RUTHERFORD COUN- TY

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, Rutherford County, in the 10th district of North Carolina, will be swearing in a new Sheriff on December 30th of this year. I would like to recognize and congratulate the extremely qualified Chief Deputy C. Philip Byers on becoming Sheriff of Rutherford County.

Sheriff-elect Byers has 15 years of law enforcement experience under his belt, and has faithfully served the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office for the past 4 years as the Chief Deputy. Having degrees from Appalachian State University and Western Carolina University, he was a teacher and a business owner before deciding to serve his community as a police officer. In addition, his wife Sheila is dedicated to serving the community through the North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation

Services, a state agency that educates and trains disabled and developmentally challenged persons to obtain meaningful jobs.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff-elect Byers has a superb record as an officer of the law, and is dedicated to making Rutherford County a safe and peaceful place in which to live. Combating the methamphetamine epidemic is a perfect example of his leadership for the county. He is an excellent choice for this position, and I congratulate him on this great honor. I thank Sheriff-elect Byers and his wife Sheila for their dedication to the community and look forward to his service as Sheriff of Rutherford County.

HONORING THE ASTUTE LEADERSHIP OF JAMES T. WILLERSON, M.D., PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON (UTHSC-H) FOR UTHSC-H'S RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS BROUGHT ABOUT BY HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. James T. Willerson, President of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H).

On September 1, 2005, Dr. Willerson, along with UTHSC-H Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Michael D. McKinney, M.D., was given the task by Houston Mayor Bill White to transform a portion of the George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB) in Houston, Texas, from a convention center to a medical triage center, adjacent to the shelter created for more than 5,000 Hurricane Katrina survivors.

The UT Health Science Center acted quickly to design, organize and prepare clinic space to serve evacuees at the George R. Brown Convention Center, which opened as an additional safe haven to Houston's Astrodome, which quickly achieved capacity within a day of opening. Over about three weeks, more than 6,000 volunteers operated the UT Clinic and managed more than 9,000 patient visits. The volunteers included UT physicians, nurses, dentists, public health professionals, students and administrative staff as well as spouses of these professionals. The clinic also included other volunteers and health professionals from Texas Medical Center institutions and individuals from across the country who answered the call to help in the aftermath of this national crisis. These volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure welcome, comfort and care for our neighbors in need. Services provided with expertise and compassion in the UT Clinic included: emergency aid, pediatric care, immunizations, obstetrics and gynecology, internal medicine, pharmacy, laboratory services, imaging and vision components, dental care and mental health services.

Several dedicated professionals from the UT Health Science Center worked to ensure that healthcare concerns at the evacuee sites were communicated with state and local officials. Scott Lillibridge, M.D., the Director of the Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness, provided critical technical assistance

and general epidemiology support at numerous evacuee facilities. Faculty and staff conducted rapid health assessments daily at evacuee sites. This information allowed Dr. Ward Casscells, the John Edward Tyson Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Vice President of Biotechnology at the Health Science Center, and Dr. Lillibridge to continually inform public health officials of evacuee health status and coordinate efforts with FEMA, CDC, the Red Cross, the City of Houston, Harris County, and the Texas Commissioner of Health.

Each of the UT Health Science Center's six schools—contributed in one way or another to the Hurricane Katrina response. Dr. Willerson encouraged his deans to seek every possible avenue to help during this time of crisis. He approved of the placement of students from Tulane Medical School and allocated space for the displaced Tulane faculty for their medical education, resident training and research at the UT Medical School. The medical school is also hosting 37 residents from Tulane so additional interruptions to their education will not occur.

Dr. Willerson is an exemplary leader who through his actions in this most recent crisis was able to show compassion in the midst of quick decision-making. With the help of a superb leadership team, headed by Dr. McKinney, the staff performed to the highest standards of professionalism and compassion. With the encouragement, support and guidance of Dr. Willerson, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston responded in countless ways as health professionals, lay volunteers, concerned citizens and caring friends.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Willerson and the hundreds of UTHSC-Houston professionals who answered the call to aid and assist their fellow Americans deserve the acclaim and gratitude of the Nation.

COMMENDING DR. ANNE HARLAN ON HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY AND NATION

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Anne Harlan on her long and distinguished service to her community and country, and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement as director of the Federal Aviation Administration's William J. Hughes Technical Center in Pomona, N.J.

During a career that has spanned more than 20 years, Dr. Harlan has been an unwavering advocate for improving the safety and security of our Nation's skies. Since 1995, she has lead the FAA's Technical Center and oversaw the research and development of new aviation safety and security technology. She has been a tremendous leader for the center, effectively managing and motivating over 1,000 outstanding employees who have given her their complete confidence. She has worked tirelessly to expand the center, while keeping the growing community cohesive and working as a team.

Before she came to the Technical Center, she served for 11 years in FAA's New Eng-

land Region where she held positions in the divisions of Flight Standards, Civil Aviation Security, and Human Resources. Dr. Harlan has also dutifully served as a special assistant to two deputy administrators during her multiple Washington assignments over the years.

Dr. Harlan has been willing to share her expertise over the years as she was on the faculty at the prestigious Harvard University Graduate School of Business where she taught in the MBA and doctoral programs. Those students who were fortunate enough to learn from her are certainly better off today having her insight and experiences passed down to them.

Throughout her distinguished career in public service, Dr. Harlan devoted herself to safeguarding the country, while preparing us for our future's challenges. I would like to personally congratulate and thank her on behalf of the flying public and all Americans. I hope she enjoys every bit of her retirement, she certainly deserves it.

A TRIBUTE TO SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR GENE ZIMMERMAN

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant who has spent 42 years helping preserve our forests and wildlands for future Americans, want to particularly commend Gene Zimmerman for the past 15 years he has spent as supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest.

Even as a boy growing up in eastern Oregon, Gene heard the call of the great outdoors. He spent his time camping, fishing and hiking in the Umatilla National Forest, and worked for a timber company in the summer. While attending Oregon State University, he spent his summers working for the U.S Forest Service, and began his full-time career there when he graduated in 1964.

Supervisor Zimmerman worked as a ranger in a number of forests in Oregon, and began honing his skills in volunteer organization and partnership building while working as district ranger in the Columbia Gorge District. He continued to develop an expertise in this area when he came to the National Headquarters in Washington, DC, to oversee legislation on recreation issues.

The experience Gene Zimmerman gained on how to help people enjoy National Forests without damaging them paid off when he was appointed supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest. I have proudly represented this area throughout my years in Congress, and I can safely say that there is no more heavily used and urbanized forest in the United States.

Imagine a forest nearly surrounded by the largest urban area in the Nation—the cities of Southern California—and sharing a mountain territory with tens of thousands of homes whose values range into the millions of dollars. The main ski resort area of southern California is within the San Bernardino National Forest, and millions of people go there for recreation each year. For millions of children

in southern California, this is the only place to go to play in the snow or hear the wind whispering through the pines.

The supervisor of this forest spends as much time dealing with urban issues as many mayors. He must deal with water quality, roads, development and emergency services as often as he deals with tree health and animal habitat protection. Gene Zimmerman has become the most familiar face in the San Bernardino Mountains in this role over the past 15 years.

It has been my pleasure to work with Gene on developing services for visitors—the Big Bear Discovery Center is one of the most heavily used visitor centers in any forest in the Nation. The San Bernardino National Forest Association, which Gene organized to help raise funds for visitor services, has become a unifying force throughout the mountain communities.

The need to forge a unified approach between the forest and the surrounding communities became deadly serious in recent years, when drought and an infestation of pine bark beetles left millions of trees dead and just waiting for a spark to become a terrible disaster. Gene rose to this challenge, as well, organizing the Mountain Area Safety Task Force. These Federal, State and local officials developed a plan to evacuate nearly 50,000 people, and when the inferno of the Old Fire struck in 2003, not a single life was lost to the fire even though nearly 1,000 homes burned.

My work with Gene has continued in the past 3 years as we have sought ways to reduce the fire danger and restore the forest. It is my hope that this can be accomplished with the help of the recovery plan Gene has set in place. He will now hand off the implementation of that plan, as he has decided to retire at the beginning of 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the mountain residents in my district owe a debt of gratitude for the dedication shown by Supervisor Gene Zimmerman. I would ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Gene for his four decades of public service and in wishing the best to Gene and his wife Anne in all of their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERALD AND
JULIA GEIER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay special recognition to Gerald and Julia Geier, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary tomorrow, December 17, 2005. In fact, they intend to renew their vows at a celebration being held at Saks Baptist Church in my hometown of Anniston, AL.

I attend church with this fine couple. It is wonderful to see two people who still care so much about each other after all these years. Their commitment is an inspiration to everyone who knows them.

I salute Gerald and Julia Geier on their 50th anniversary and join their family in honoring them on this special occasion.

RECOGNITION OF LORETTA E.
REARDON'S SERVICE TO FORT
MONMOUTH ARMY GARRISON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute and express my deeply felt gratitude to the service of Loretta E. Reardon, who serves as the staff advisor and special projects officer/coordinator for the Deputy to the Commanding General at Fort Monmouth Army Garrison in Eatontown, NJ.

Ms. Reardon has proudly served our government for nearly twenty-seven years. Throughout her career she has shown a total dedication to her mission. Ms. Reardon has been a mentor to employees and has always been an energetic team player.

She has selflessly served Fort Monmouth as liaison to industry organizations on issues involving the command as well as Congressional offices on all federal matters.

She has always quickly responded to special inquiries generated by my staff, and my colleagues in the New Jersey Congressional Delegation, and myself on a myriad of issues pertaining to Fort Monmouth such as Appropriation and BRAC issues.

She was the eyes and ears for the command through multiple rounds of Base Realignment and Closures. She has been a steady and guiding force keeping Victor J. Ferlise, the Deputy to the Commanding General U.S. Army Communications—Electronics Command, on the right track for a number of years.

In closing, her retirement marks a new chapter in her life. It also represents the loss of a member of the Fort Monmouth family. It will be impossible to replace her work ethic, her exceptional standards, her unparalleled skill, and her ability to make everyone she touched feel special.

I want to thank Loretta E. Reardon for all she has done for Fort Monmouth, for the State of New Jersey, and for our country.

I ask my colleagues to recognize the tremendous contribution that Loretta E. Reardon has made throughout her impressive twenty-seven year career.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4560, THE
"CLEAN WATER TRUST ACT OF
2005"

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the "Clean Water Trust Fund Act of 2005."

We are all well aware that our national water infrastructure is aging, deteriorating, and in need of repair and replacement. The American Society of Civil Engineers recently graded the condition of the infrastructure throughout our country. Wastewater infrastructure received a "D-." Nearly half of the sewer pipes in American cities are over 50 years old. Some are over 100 years old. Treatment plants built in the 1970s need to be upgraded.

New mandates to manage municipal stormwater runoff have gone into effect. And water quality must be improved.

As a nation, we are not investing enough in our wastewater treatment infrastructure to ensure that we will continue to keep our waters clean. Unless we act, we could lose the significant gains in water quality that have been achieved over the last 30 years.

The Congressional Budget Office, EPA, and the Water Infrastructure Network have estimated that it could take over \$400 billion to address our Nation's clean water infrastructure needs over the next 20 years, twice the current level of investment by all levels of government. We can help reduce the overall cost of water infrastructure with good asset management. Innovative technologies, increased water efficiency, and regional approaches to water pollution problems also will help reduce costs. But, these things alone will not close the large funding "gap" that now exists between water infrastructure needs and current levels of spending. Increased investment also must take place.

A recent survey by the Luntz Research Companies found that most Americans believe clean and safe water is a national priority, and are willing to pay more to get it. The survey also found that most Americans want a sustainable, dedicated source of funding for water infrastructure projects, and would support the creation of a sustainable trust fund for wastewater infrastructure.

The "Clean Water Trust Act of 2005" addresses these issues by:

Establishing a Clean Water Trust Fund to provide an assured source of funding to help the nation meet its water infrastructure needs.

Authorizing over \$37 billion over five years from the Clean Water Trust Fund for increased investment in critical water infrastructure, improvements in technology and infrastructure management, addressing water quality issues in critical regional waters, and improving and protecting wetlands and fisheries uses.

Encouraging innovative and alternative approaches to solving water quality problems and financing infrastructure improvements;

Encouraging appropriate management of infrastructure assets, including planning for the payment of the costs of repair and replacement; and

Increasing support for rural and small communities through technical and funding assistance.

In crafting this bill we have looked at the national goal of improving water quality, establishing an assured source of funding to help the nation meet its water infrastructure needs, and the responsibilities of local communities to provide municipal services and maintain their local wastewater systems.

The "Clean Water Trust Act of 2005" embraces innovative solutions for these interests and I urge Members to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH E.
LOWERY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Joseph E.

Lowery for his instrumental role in assuring equal rights for all Americans. Dr. Lowery, who has been called the “dean of the Civil Rights Movement,” was the cofounder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Dr. Lowery was born in Huntsville, AL, on October 6, 1921. During the 1950s, he led the Alabama Civic Affairs Association, an organization dedicated to the desegregation of buses and public places. In 1957, Dr. Lowery joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders from throughout the Southeast to organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization renowned for its nonviolent approach to ending segregation. He would eventually lead the SCLC from 1977 until 1997.

Dr. Lowery also organized and led the 1965 Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights March. This march was a key moment in the civil rights movement and a strong influence on the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Dr. Lowery's work and influence spreads outside of our country as well. He led a group that began protesting the South African Apartheid in the 1970s and continued until the successful election of Nelson Mandela in 1994.

Although officially retired, Dr. Lowery remains active and is an influential voice encouraging African Americans to vote.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 16, through Sunday, December 18, Dr. Lowery will be honored by his hometown community, with the placement of a historical marker near the site of his childhood home. I rise today to join in that celebration and to thank Dr. Lowery for all he has done on behalf of all Americans.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF
DOLORES HUERTA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, I am proud to pay tribute to a woman who has greatly influenced the course of workers rights over the past 50 years, Ms. Dolores Huerta. On the occasion of her 75th birthday it is only fitting that we pause to honor Ms. Huerta's lifetime of courage and achievement.

Ms. Huerta was born on April 10, 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico and was raised in Stockton, California amid the farm workers of the central San Joaquin Valley. Ms. Huerta's mother, Alicia Chavez, and her father, Juan Fernandez, instilled in her, through their own works, a drive to help and care for others. In her own life, Ms. Huerta has been an incalculable asset to the movement for the advancement of worker's rights and in particular, the rights of farm workers and their families.

Ms. Huerta began advocacy for workers and their families in 1955 when she created the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization, CSO, after encountering farm workers' hungry children while teaching in a public school. Early in her endeavors, Ms. Huerta successfully lobbied, in Sacramento, for the removal of citizenship requirements from pension and public assistance programs. She also helped pass legislation that allowed people to take their drivers license examina-

tions in their native language and established the right to vote in Spanish.

Through her work with the CSO, Ms. Huerta met Caesar Chavez and together, in 1962, they founded the United Farm Workers of America, UFW. Ms. Huerta became the organization's First Vice President Emeritus. The UFW is perhaps best known for its role in the Delano Grape Strike beginning in 1965. The strike ended after 5 years of hard work and careful negotiations, which were led by Ms. Huerta, with the establishment of a 3-year collective bargaining agreement with the grape industry.

Among Ms. Huerta's many achievements are several outstanding awards. She was bestowed with the California State Senate's Outstanding Labor Leader Award in 1984 and her impact on the national workers rights movement was highlighted in 1993 when Ms. Huerta was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and received the Ellis Island Medal of Freedom Award, as well as several other awards. Although Ms. Huerta's efforts concentrated intensely on California, her impact on workers rights nationwide has been remarkable and merits our honor and admiration.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues—Reps. BECERRA, BERMAN, CAPPS, COSTA, FARR, HONDA, LANTOS, MATSUI, NAPOLITANO, PELOSI, ROYBAL-ALLARD, LINDA SANCHEZ, LORETTA SANCHEZ, SCHIFF, SHERMAN, SOLIS, THOMPSON, WAXMAN and WOOLSEY—join me in thanking Ms. Huerta for her tireless adherence to the improvement of workers rights across the United States. We are humbled to honor such a wonderful person who, for years, has been a great friend and inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO MITCH KEHETIAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the distinguished career of Mitch Kehetian.

Known as the “dean of Detroit-area journalism,” Mitch Kehetian's career in journalism dates back to 1953 with roots stemming from Allen Park, Michigan. Beginning as a “copy boy” for the Detroit Times, Mr. Kehetian served diligently as reporter and editor working his way through the journalism establishment. After his tenure at the Times, he joined the Citizen-Journal of Columbus, Ohio then returned to Detroit at the Eastside News. In 1969, Mr. Kehetian accepted a job as the Warren reporter and bureau chief of the Macomb Daily.

Serving as a reporter, managing editor, and editorial page editor at the Macomb Daily for over 30 years, Mr. Kehetian brought an intense, lifelong interest in politics, public service and government to his coverage, especially their impact on citizens and communities. His wide-ranging attention to international, national, and local affairs and his personable yet direct manner drew attention and admiration from the halls of all types of houses—from Macomb to the White House.

Mitch Kehetian loved and believed in the work of journalism. He was a reporter's reporter committed to the news, and the trusted role of the “newsman” in our country. Michi-

gan was better off with his reporter's eye and his editor's pen at work in our community. His dedication to his work allowed him to enjoy mentoring young and aspiring journalists often at the beginning of their careers. Mr. Kehetian served as both the President and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Press Club, and as President of the Metro Detroit Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. In 2002, the Society bestowed its highest honor upon him, “Lifetime Achievement Award.” He has also been awarded countless journalism awards from the Associated Press, United Press International, Michigan Press Association, to name just a few.

Mr. Kehetian is also a proud family man and a proud Armenian-American. Mr. Speaker, it has been my personal privilege to know and be in regular touch with Mitch these last decades. He combined enough distance from people in public life to be objective and enough closeness to create friendships. So I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mitch Kehetian, a distinguished journalist and a friend, for his years of dedicated service to journalism and the communities and citizens he served and in wishing him good health and happiness in the next phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO CLEVELAND MAYOR
JANE L. CAMPBELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mayor Jane L. Campbell, for her unwavering dedication, diligence, vision and integrity that defined her leadership as Mayor of the City of Cleveland.

Mayor Campbell's vital focus on lifting the lives of the poor and disenfranchised, starting at the neighborhood level, framed her every professional and political endeavor. She began her service to our community as the founding Executive Director of WomenSpace, and later as the Executive Director of the Friends of Shaker Square. During her 12-year tenure as State Representative, Mayor Campbell introduced and enacted legislation protecting the rights of children, families and seniors. As a Cuyahoga County Commissioner, she advocated for women and children, chairing the Violence Against Women Act Committee, and the Children Who Witness Violence Committee.

Throughout her journey from County Commissioner to the Mayor of Cleveland, Mayor Campbell continued her unrelenting focus on behalf of all Cleveland residents, especially children, families and seniors. During her term in office, she implemented numerous health and human services programs that provide guidance and support for our most vulnerable citizens who struggle daily to elevate their lives above the raging cycle of poverty and homelessness. Mayor Campbell's vision to raise the City into the promise of restoration and renewal is also reflected in the commercial and residential structures of Cleveland's neighborhoods, from Detroit-Shoreway, Cudell and Old Brooklyn, east to Slavic Village, Union-Miles and Buckeye-Woodland, where commercial redevelopment, storefront renovation and housing restoration has become a reality.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of my friend, Mayor Jane L. Campbell, whose unwavering commitment, steadfast integrity and vital accomplishments have raised the City of Cleveland above the shadows of financial crisis 4 years ago, onto a solid foundation today, where urban renewal and the hope of a better tomorrow for all citizens continues to rise. Mayor Campbell's legacy of service and concern for her constituents will be remembered and recognized for generations to come. I wish Mayor Jane Campbell and her family many blessings of peace, health and happiness as they journey onward from this day.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STEVE KIRKHAM

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Steve Kirkham of Kingston, Tennessee for his leadership and involvement in his community.

Steve is a known fixture in his home county of Roane County, Tennessee and is fast becoming an integral member of many other communities due to his work in promoting economic development in East Tennessee.

Kirkham, owner and chief executive officer of Rocky Top Markets, is a man who exhibits traits that have helped make America what it is: hard working, compassionate, and exemplifies perseverance and generosity. If you ask him how he got to be where he is he will tell you, "by grinding it out, having good employees, and just plain luck."

Working for the Harriman Oil Company in the mid-70's Kirkham suggested to the owners of the company that they should join the convenience store craze. They did, and Rocky Top Market was born in June 1980 with the first opening.

Since 1980, Rocky Top Markets has grown to a chain of 38 and has plans for continued growth in Tennessee and Northern Georgia. Having purchased Rocky Top Markets in 1998, it is now one of the largest retail convenience stores in East Tennessee employing almost 400 people.

A long standing member of the business community Steve has been a member of the Tennessee Oil Marketers Board, Tennessee Grocers and Convenience Store Association Board, and the Shell Jobber Council. He has served as Chair of the Roane State Foundation and the Community Development Council. As chairman of the CDC he helped form and fund the Roane Alliance. The Alliance is an effort to bring together the chamber, tourism and industrial development groups in Roane County for a unified effort in promoting responsible growth. He is currently serving as chairman of the Roane County Industrial Development Board.

If not working or golfing Steve is with his family. There is an understanding of the high regard he has for family for those who know him in and outside of work. He is married to Teresa Kirkham and has three daughters: Angie, Stephanie, and Christie. He is also the proud grandparent of Tyler, Tanner, and Ryley.

TRIBUTE TO ALFRED LOUIS ROMEO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life of a wonderful man, who sadly passed over a year ago, Mr. Alfred Louis Romeo.

It is fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for his lifelong dedication to the City of Paterson.

Born and raised in my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, Fred graduated from Central High School. After his graduation from high school in 1958 Fred joined the Paterson Fire Department as a member of the Division Line Gang.

The Division Line Gang was a group of firefighters who were assigned to maintain the communications infrastructure for emergency call boxes throughout Paterson. Fred was a member of the Division Line Gang until 1983, when the "Gang" was disbanded, in order to use the more effective emergency voice response system. It was at this time that Fred was transferred as a firefighter to Engine Company Number 7.

Fred found time during his busy schedule to volunteer at the Paterson YMCA where he had been a member for over 70 years. In addition, to sitting on the Board of Directors, he served as the Co-Coordinator for the YMCA. Perhaps most importantly, Fred had donated his time on Thanksgiving, for the past 34 years, to help feed the underprivileged at the annual Thanksgiving Feast.

Beyond his many philanthropic contributions, Fred was also a Champion and Hall of Fame handball player. He had amassed two New Jersey State Singles Championship titles, 24 NJ State Doubles Championship titles, a Jr. National doubles Championship title, and a National doubles Championship title. Fred was not only a Member of the Board of Directors for the Old Timers Sports Hall of Fame, Association of Paterson; he was an inductee as well.

In addition to Fred's many academic and professional achievements, his personal achievements are many also. He was the devoted husband to the late Rose Romeo and father of Rosalind, Francine, and Dominic.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Fred's family and friends, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable achievements of a man who will be truly missed, Mr. Alfred Louis Romeo.

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER HENRY "HANK" NAVA, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the collective grief of the people of North Texas on the death of Fort Worth Officer Henry "Hank" Nava, Jr. who died of a gunshot wound to his head while in the course of duty.

Officer Nava, recognizable by his military hairstyle, Oakley sunglasses and electric smile, was a dedicated servant of the community. The grief from his loss is shared not only by his fellow police brethren, but by the greater Fort Worth community.

Hank Nava was the first Fort Worth officer killed in the line of duty in 11 years. He served as an officer in Austin, Plano and Fort Worth, where he was most recently assigned to the 10-member North Side Crime Response Team. This team is directed to handle particularly difficult cases. He was always first to volunteer and enthusiastic to accomplish the tasks ahead of him. A natural leader, he was a source of encouragement for his fellow police officers.

Officer Nava's personality and bravery made him a trusted friend, devoted husband and father, and a hero to other police officers. Gianni Ghilespe, a Fort Worth police captain, said that Officer Nava gave him a home during his darkest moment and helped him work through his problems stating, "God sent a hero to me," he said. "It was Hank Nava."

His generous personality extended beyond his call to service as a police officer. Officer Nava could often be found working out in the community especially with children. The impact of his death left a wounded community. Currently, the Fort Worth police are having difficulties reassigning his patrol unit. It seems that citizens just started showing up and signing condolences on the vehicle. But truly, he will be missed most by his family.

Hank Nava is survived by his wife, Teresa and his two children Kayleigh, age nine, and Justin, age four.

We were blessed to have had him protecting us all from the evils of this world. His courage and dedication brought hope of a safer community. He will be remembered as a husband, a hero, and a friend.

REJECT THE MEDICAID PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS IN THE HOUSE RECONCILIATION BILL, H.R. 4241

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to Section 3145 of the House reconciliation bill that will deny health care to our poorest Americans who desperately need and deserve it. This provision would require people who apply for Medicaid to prove that they are citizens, by producing a birth certificate or a passport. This may not sound like a difficult task to some, but the reality is much, much different.

Many older Americans do not have birth certificates because their parents did not have access to hospitals, and so, they were born at home. This was true in rural America, and is still true in some places today. Also, in the last century, all over the south, because of segregation and racial discrimination, many hospitals would not take minorities. Many minorities, including African Americans, were born at home and don't have a birth certificate.

These people were kept out of the health care system when they came into the world. To keep these same people off of Medicaid

and further deny these men and women health care is yet another slap in the face. The health system failed these people once, and it should not fail them again.

This rule is arbitrary. It is dangerous. And it is wrong.

Even the Department of Health and Human Services agrees that it is unnecessary. There is no evidence that illegal immigrants are getting Medicaid illegally.

This is very dangerous. If this becomes law, state and county officials will decide how to enforce this rule. Therefore, anyone with dark skin, or an accent or who looks like an undocumented immigrant will be at great risk for discrimination.

American citizens, particularly the poor, minorities, and the very old, who are eligible for Medicaid, will be denied the health care that they need. All for a misguided attempt to keep undocumented immigrants from receiving health care. It is unjust and it is wrong. It is un-American and I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing this provision.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN
WILLIAM RICHEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John William Richey of Smiths Station, AL. Mr. Richey is a man of integrity and great accomplishment in the pharmaceutical field. He was chosen as the 2005 Good Neighbor Pharmacist of the Year, selected out of an astounding 4,000 applicants across the entire country.

In 1971, Mr. Richey opened Plaza Pharmacy in Smiths Station with a partner and later became the sole owner. Mr. Richey proves his commitment to his customers daily; he is often found opening the pharmacy willingly after hours for emergencies. His unparalleled generosity and good will towards human life extends beyond his business into his personal life. In 2000, he kindly donated one of his kidneys to his friend. He has four children and three grandchildren.

His business has been a landmark in Smiths Station for decades, and today Mr. Richey fills the prescriptions for grandchildren of his first customers. I am proud to acknowledge Mr. Richey in the House on this day and congratulate him on his dedication to his family, to pharmaceutical service, and to his customers.

RECOGNIZES CENTENARIAN JESUS
HERNANDEZ OF SPRING HILL,
FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jesus Hernandez of Spring Hill, FL. Jesus has done

something that all of us strive for but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate his 100th birthday.

Jesus was born November 26, 1905 in Ciales, PR. Located in the central mountain range of the island, Jesus's parents owned and operated a small farm. He grew up with his brothers and sisters where he cared for cattle and horses and performed agricultural chores while attending school. Other than the love and respect he had for his parents, working on the farm and playing sports are the fondest memories of his childhood.

During the Great Depression Jesus moved to New York City to work and help provide for his family during hard times. In 1932, he returned to Puerto Rico where he met and married his wife Carmen. Blessed with two sons, five grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren, Jesus says that the happiest moment in his life was the birth of his two sons, Ed and Lou.

During the Second World War Jesus tried to enlist in the military like his brothers but was unable to do so because of a heart condition. Jesus instead went to work for the railroad until 1944 when he decided to return to New York City with his wife and sons.

Jesus moved to Spring Hill in 2004 where he lives with his son Lou, who retired from the U.S. Army, and his daughter-in-law Marge. Today, Jesus says he gets the most pleasure from walking in the morning, playing dominos and helping to maintain the trees and plants in his son's backyard. He says that the only thing he would change if he had the chance to do his life over would be to travel the world.

Jesus says that despite his health he remains a positive person and possesses a great sense of humor. Jesus's secret to a long life is that he watches what he eats, does not drink alcoholic beverages and does not smoke. His advice to the young people is to "finish your education, have respect and consideration for your parents and everyone as a whole, work hard and save your money to be self-dependent." Finally, Jesus says that "he is proud to be an American and all it stands for. God Bless America."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Jesus Hernandez for reaching his 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as he has.

SOWING THE SEEDS THROUGH
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RE-
SEARCH ACT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to complement two previously introduced bills, H.R. 4434 and H.R. 4435, to authorize additional recommendations from a committee of the National Academy of Sciences, chaired by Mr. Norman Augustine. The recommendations of the committee's report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*, reflect the consensus forged among nationally-recognized industry, academic and government experts.

With this bill, *Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act*, and the previously introduced bills, I have taken steps to implement the Augustine Committee's highest priority, which is to improve K-12 math and science education by enhancing the skills and qualifications of math and science teachers, and to respond to the committee's call to "sustain and strengthen the nation's traditional commitment to the long-term basic research that has the potential to be transformational to maintain the flow of new ideas that fuel the economy, provide security, and enhance the quality of life."

The bill I introduced today authorizes 10% increases per year in funding for basic research in the physical sciences, mathematical sciences, and engineering at the principal federal agencies supporting such research. These increases, if sustained, would lead to a doubling of basic research funding in these critical areas over 7 years.

The bill also takes action to develop the research talent needed for the future by providing for up to 200 new awards per year, of \$100,000 per year for 5 years, to outstanding early-career researchers. It seeks to enlarge the pool of graduate students in science, math and engineering by creating a graduate fellowship program, with 5000 new fellowships per year for individuals pursuing studies in areas of national need.

Finally, the bill establishes a presidential innovation award to stimulate scientific and engineering advances in the national interest and provides for the refurbishment of academic and government research laboratories, an essential factor to enable leading-edge research.

These three bills are a response to a serious challenge to our Nation's future economic prosperity. From the Augustine report, "This Nation must prepare with great urgency to preserve its strategic and economic security. Because other Nation's have, and probably will continue to have, the competitive advantage of a low-wage structure, the United States must compete by optimizing its knowledge-based resources, particularly in science and technology, and by sustaining the most fertile environment for new and revitalized industries and the well-paying jobs they bring. We have already seen that capital, factories, and laboratories readily move wherever they are thought to have the greatest return."

My intent in introducing these bills is to issue a call for action by the Congress and the Administration. The Augustine Report correctly identifies the challenges we face as a Nation and has developed a series of specific recommendations to address these challenges. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are not new. The problem is that neither the Administration nor Congress has made any real efforts to act.

I hope the introduction of this legislation will begin a substantive discussion on the commitment and resources required to ensure our Nation's future economic competitiveness and that our children have well-paid, challenging jobs. I am committed to working with the private-sector, Members of Congress and the Administration in turning this legislation into funded programs.

16TH ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS VETERANS
BRAINTRUST

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on September 10th, 2004, Rep. SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. (D-GA) and I convened the 16th Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust issues forum titled: "Honoring African American Women Veterans Who Served," because we both care a great deal about the well being of African America veterans. Moreover, for these past 12 years we have worked so very hard building the Veterans Braintrust, and carrying the torch for America's service men and women.

Nevertheless, we would be remiss if we did not recognize the special service to this Nation, and to this institution of Congressman CHARLES RANGEL of New York, a distinguished and decorated Korean War veteran in his own right, who is the father of the Congressional Black Caucus' Veterans Braintrust, established in 1988, and has carried the torch for African American veterans for over half a century. Since Congressman RANGEL's first Braintrust, the Veterans Braintrust has emerged as an institution "think tank" and "advisory group" for the Congressional Black Caucus and for other Members of Congress on the critical issues of education, health care, mental health, aging, research, employment and training, homelessness and affordable housing, small business development and veterans benefits and services.

Next, we were happy to extend a very warm welcome and deepest appreciation to our distinguished guests, panelist, moderator, and Bishop Imagine Stewart for performing our invocation. Which included State Senator Ed Harbison, Chairman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus special presentation to Spc. Shoshanna Johnson, who was captured in Iraq two years ago with other members of the 507th Maintenance Company. Shoshanna is the only African American woman to be held captive in Iraq. But more importantly, Shoshanna truly exemplifies the best that America has to offer—her courage under the most extraordinary of circumstances shows us all just how important the service of our ordinary airmen, marines, sailors, and soldiers are to our Nation. Thus, all those who serve, serve equally and should be awarded based on their service, and not by the color of their skin, or gender.

This led us to the issues we were there to discuss, the treatment of women in today's military, and as veterans. However, the discussion of the current state of affairs would be incomplete without a brief history, or stories of those who paved the way for the modern military woman. Early on, African American women played major support roles during the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Civil War. For example: Harriet Tubman served as a Union spy, an unpaid soldier, a volunteer nurse, and a freedom fighter. While another runaway slave, Susan King Taylor, became famous for her volunteer service as a nurse and launderer as she traveled with her husband's unit, the 33rd United States Colored Troops (USCTs). She formed the Boston Branch of

the Women's Relief Corps after the war. Her memoirs published in 1902, became the only written record of Black volunteer nurses in the Civil War. Again, during the Spanish American War black women played the role of nurses. Yet, during the war, over 75% of all deaths resulted from typhoid and yellow fever. Many black female volunteer nurses were told they were immune to the diseases because their skin was darker and thicker. Because of this, many of them exposed themselves to the diseases and became casualties when they returned home. And because of segregated living areas, the Whites never knew the high rate of casualties that these women suffered.

However, during World War I for the first time in military history, African American females had an official organization where they found leadership and direction to use their abilities. The National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses founded in 1909 by Mary Mahoney, Adah Thoms and Martha Franklin. In 1917, the co-founder of the Red Cross urged Black nurses to enroll in the American Red Cross, although they were not accepted until two months before the end of the war in November of 1918. But it wasn't until World War II (1942) that women were officially allowed to serve in great numbers in the armed forces. The Army had the Women's Army Corps (WAC), the Navy had Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES); and the Coast Guard had the SPARS. With the majority of African American women serving in the Women Army Corps (WAC), where they remained in segregated units, as did African American men. Out of the highest number of women in the military during the period (271,000), only 4,000 were African American women.

Moreover, African American women continued to serve from the Korean Conflict through Vietnam to Operation Desert Storm. Of the 35,000 women who went to Desert Storm, an estimated 40% were African Americans. And today, the statistics tell us that over 30% of military women are African American, approximately 33.6% enlisted, and 13.1% commissioned and warrant officers. Notably in 2002, African American women were over-represented in the armed services as compared with their proportion in the civilian population. This is simply to say that, African American women made up 30.8% of all military women, while making up only 12% of all civilian women.

Equally important, the purpose of this forum was to discuss issues pertaining to women in the military and veterans, but particularly black women veterans. The overarching questions however were: What happens to these women socially, economically, and politically, when they return to the civilian sector as military veterans? Or what effects does military service have on their subsequent lives? With the second question being: how can we systematically help the masses of young women veterans in order to inspire them to reach their fullest potential?

To address these questions we had two distinguished panels with us that day to discuss a range of issues pertaining to the African American woman veteran. Among the topics discussed were those of post traumatic stress disorder, homelessness, physical disability, and sexual harassment, or assault. Our first panel of presenters consisted of Attorney Herbert Fenner of the law firm McKenna Long

and Aldridge who presented the case of Jemekia Barber; Muriel Gibson, Senior Staff Assistant to U.S. Senator PATTY MURRAY's office discussed several cases. We also heard from three African American women veterans themselves: Kericia Smith, SSgt. Vanessa Turner, and Carolyn Williams. Followed by a second panel consisting of Dr. Laura Miller, Social Scientist with the Rand Corporation, who has researched extensively women in the military, including sexual harassment and assault; Dr. Saharra Bledsoe, Executive Director of Mozella's House for Women Veterans; Zerell Johnson-Welch, Director of the Southwest Veterans Service Center, and Ms. Deborah Scott, a disabled veteran having a lot of problems receiving fair and just treatment at the VA.

While Shoshanna easily connected with the audience with both humor and humility, what we heard from her female counterparts was gut wrenching emotion, anger, and frustration, with more than a few VA officials expressing utter surprise at their anger. From Senator PATTY MURRAY's Senior Staff Assistant Muriel Gibson, who shared strategies that she helped develop through her women veterans group and advocacy work leading the state of Washington to some improvement in their options for VA healthcare and timeliness; Deborah Scott, an Army veteran, whose physical illness was misdiagnosed by VA medical personnel as "personality disorder"; Kericia Smith whose attempts to get adequate treatment and support for her struggle with PTSD have been repeatedly mishandled by VA officials; SSgt. Vanessa Turner, whose critical illness still has not been diagnosed by Army medical personnel since returning from Iraq, and who has struggled to find and maintain adequate affordable housing and/or timely treatment for her health through the VA; to Carolyn Williams speaking of her struggle for over 30 years to have her sexual assault recognized and addressed by both Navy and VA officials. Although the outward appearance seemed to be "VA bashing," we all realized that their problems arose from systemic problems, or inadequate governmental policies and practices, and were compounded by human errors.

Although issues were brought up which are undoubtedly begging for attention, this forum was just our beginning. Of those concerns addressed, however, it was abundantly clear that there were three vital issues: First, the inadequacy and sometimes absence of adequate Veterans' Administration services and programs for female military veterans. Second, the invisibility of their struggles which are quite often ignored and their frustration with the lack of methods available for redress. Third, the need to consider organizing some type of national conference where the issues facing African American women veterans might be highlighted, discussed, and strategies for addressing these challenges suggested. Such a national conference where these issues are addressed through panels and workshops, with the latter focused on sharing strategies that have proven effective and creating new possible roads to take for the future. Why, because we also heard comments such as, I wish to thank you to the experience at long last gave them an opportunity to find not just an ear that would hear their story. Or their first real opportunity and chance to speak publicly regarding fighting for VA benefits over many

years. But also left them with hope for the creation of an avenue that would rightfully address the life altering negative injustice that black women have and continue to be confronted by while in performance of their military duties, as well as afterward as "veterans" seeking help through the VA. For many years they did not believe that anyone cared, or would ever be concerned about the injustice that black women have endured at the hands of the U.S. military.

Again, the generosity of Wayne Gatewood, Jr., President and CEO of Quality Support, Inc., and Amistad Associates paved the way for a gala evening of socializing, recognition and public acknowledgement for the following female veterans and groups from the Civil war to World War II to the war in Afghanistan and Iraq: Deborah Bretey, Antoniette Edwards, Mary Jackson Fears, State Representative Gloria Fox, Vernessa Franklin, Sgt. Casaundra Grant, Col. Delores Hampton, USA, Ret., Hattie Harris, Vera Haskins (now deceased), Lorenza Hilliard, Lt. Col. Patricia Jackson, USA, Ret., Sarah Jackson, Willette Jenkins, Lillie B. Johnson (known as Miss Lillie B, now deceased), Spc. Shoshanna Johnson, Pfc. Sarah L. Keys (Sarah Keys Evans), Noel Mitchell, Capt. Margaret Oglesby, MNG, Col. Marie Rogers, USA, Ret., Mildred Smith-Kidd, Willie Whiting; House of Imagene, Mozella's House, My Women Veterans Group, Black Women's Leadership Caucus, Center for Women Veterans (Department of Veterans Affairs), National Association of Black Military Women, Harriet Tubman Home, League of Women for Community Service, and the Colored Ladies Christian Relief Society of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers.

In return, they especially thanked us for giving accolades to the female veterans of color, and for always remembering heroine Harriet Tubman. Some felt humbled to receive their awards, other felt good to read the words of acknowledgement and appreciation in addition to giving them motivation to continue on in both their personal and professional lives. As well as for providing one of the few venues that allows them to smell their flowers, or roses before they die.

In closing, I thank Sarah Ann Shaw, Drs. Brenda Moore, Laura Miller, Leisa Meyers, Robernia Gary, A.V. Hankins, Shari Miles and Ron Armstead for their continuing help in making the Veterans Braintrust an ongoing success. Also speaking on behalf of all my colleagues I thanked our African American veterans in the audience for coming and their service to our great nation. Needless to say, it was overwhelming to be in a room with so many true heroines and heroes, because it makes me very very proud that this is one of the best-attended issues forums during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference (ALC).

Lastly, Representative SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. and I agree Gen. George Washington had it right when he said, "the morale and strength of the nation's military forces would be directly proportional to how well veterans who already served and sacrificed for the country are treated and appreciated."

TRIBUTE TO DON CHALMERS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise today in recognition of Mr. Don Chalmers, an outstanding citizen in my district. In acknowledgment of the successful management of his business, Don Chalmers Ford in Rio Rancho, N.M., Mr Chalmers recently received the Zia Award, Quality New Mexico's highest performance excellence honor.

The New Mexico Quality Awards program is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards, a program initiated in 1987 when President Ronald Reagan signed the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Improvement Act of 1987. Every year businesses that apply for New Mexico Quality Awards participate in training, education, and assessment programs. Throughout the year, performance levels are checked and commitment to quality business is assessed. Participants are then considered for three levels of recognition. The most outstanding of these is the Zia Award for performance excellence.

By participating in New Mexico Quality training and analysis programs, Mr. Chalmers dealership has become a benchmark for excellence in New Mexico. Mr. Chalmers demonstrated a commitment to improving his already very successful business by surpassing the needs and expectations of his employees and the residents of our New Mexico communities. Because of these accomplishments, Don Chalmers Ford received the most prestigious of performance awards, the Zia Award.

Beyond his business success, Mr. Chalmers has been an active and outstanding citizen of New Mexico over the last 10 years. Mr. Chalmers has participated in a number of community projects such as the Equal Access to Justice Campaign, the New Mexico Balloon Fiesta, and Women on the Move.

It is with pride an appreciation that I congratulate this outstanding citizen on his contributions to our great State and on receiving the one and only Zia Award granted by Quality New Mexico in 2005.

TRIBUTE TO RADM CHRISTOPHER WEAVER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor RADM Christopher Weaver, United States Navy, who is retiring after more than 34 years of faithful service to our Nation.

A native of Harrisonville, MO, Rear Admiral Weaver began his career in 1971, when he graduated from the United States Naval Academy. He holds a bachelor of science degree from the Naval Academy and a master of public administration degree from George Washington University. He is also a distinguished graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Rear Admiral Weaver is an honorary Seabee and honorary master chief petty officer.

During the years that followed, Rear Admiral Weaver accrued an impressive operational career highlighted by command of USS *Exultant* and USS *Spruance*. Rear Admiral Weaver was designated a surface warfare officer in 1973. His sea tours also include duty aboard USS *Marvin Shields*, USS *Capodanno*, USS *Boulder*, and USS *Samuel Eliot Morison*.

Ashore he commanded U.S. Naval Station, Norfolk, VA, the world's largest Navy base, and served as an assignment officer in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, as head of the Seamanship and Navigation Department at the U.S. Naval Academy, as head of the Surface Combatant Branch of the Surface Warfare Division and as head of the Mine Warfare Branch of the Expeditionary Warfare Division. He also served as executive officer to the director of Logistics, J4, the Joint Staff.

He was selected for Flag rank in February 1997. Rear Admiral Weaver served as the 83rd commandant of Naval District Washington, the oldest continuously operated Navy installation in the Nation. In his most recent assignment as commander, Navy Installations Command, and director, Ashore Readiness Division, Rear Admiral Weaver led unprecedented organizational change amid an historic time of overall Navy transformation in the Navy's shore infrastructure.

Rear Admiral Weaver is an exceptional leader. He is an individual of uncommon character and his professionalism will be sincerely missed in the Navy. Mr. Speaker, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in thanking RADM Christopher Weaver for his honorable service in the United States Navy, and wishing him and his wife Chris all the best in the years to come.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT SYMBOLS AND TRADITIONS OF CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE PROTECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is an excellent example of how the House Leadership politicizes non-issues to distract Congress from substantive issues.

The Federal Government is obviously not opposed to Christmas, an annual celebration that has deep significance for those of us from a Christian tradition. In that sense, a "Yes" vote is appropriate.

But Christmas is not under assault from the Federal Government; there is no need for this resolution. Therefore, a vote of "Present" could be appropriate; there is simply no controversy here.

I chose to vote "No," however, because the resolution is flawed. It misses the point. Christmas is not being threatened by the federal government. Instead, the season that celebrates Christ's humble birth in a manger has been commercialized and cheapened by those who celebrate it as the retail highlight of the year.

My sincere wish for the New Year is that House leadership sets aside its penchant for distracting and divisive issues to focus on solutions to problems that face Americans every day.

IN RECOGNITION OF REV. JOHN R.
CLAYPOOL IV

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to the Reverend John Rowan Claypool IV, who passed September 3, 2005. He was internationally and nationally recognized as one of the most gifted spiritual leaders and teachers of our time.

Dr. Claypool was ordained to ministry in 1953 and served as Pastor of five Baptist Churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas and Mississippi. He was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1986 and served as Rector of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Alabama for nearly 14 years. He retired from full time parish ministry in 2000 and, since that time, had served as the Professor of Homiletics at Mercer University's School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia.

He has written many books education others of the things he has learned through the death of his 10 year old daughter, and the accounts of his role in the struggle for Civil Rights. Dr. Claypool was truly a model citizen and will be sorely missed. His word lives on through his wife, Ann; and their children.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to honor and pay homage to the Reverend John R. Claypool IV in the House today and hope that we may all strive to live as he did.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM "BILL" PRYOR NEWBY

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I stand to honor the life of William "Bill" Pryor Newby of Kingston, Tennessee. Mr. Newby, at the age of 85, recently passed away at his home after a long and successful life.

A veteran of World War II serving in the U.S. Navy, Mr. Newby was loved by many family and friends. He was a 64-year veteran of the Tennessee Valley Authority, serving longer than any previous TVA employee.

Mr. Newby began his career with the TVA on August 19, 1941 when he was hired as an electrician apprentice at Fort Loudoun Dam. He also worked at the Fontana and Douglas Dams, and the Johnsonville Fossil Plant. He ended his career at the Kingston Fossil Plant where he was a maintenance supervisor.

Speaking of Mr. Newby, Kingston Plant Manager Earl Deskins said, "He was a hero who has spanned the technology changes of this industry. His selflessness, ability, sharing past experiences and just treating people in the true STAR 7 fashion has earned him the title of 'our hero.'"

Mr. Newby is survived by his wife, Sarah, six children; James Herbert Newby, Elizabeth Pryor Newby, William Milton Newby, Sarah Jane Newby, Katherine N. Burnette, and Tom Newby, and seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

He was laid to rest at Roselawn Cemetery in Athens, Alabama with military honors pro-

vided by the Roane County Military Memorial Honor Guard.

RECOGNIZING CENTENARIAN LORETTE NOSTER OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lorette Noster of Hernando County, Florida. Lorette will do something this June 3rd that all of us strive for, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Born in Manchester, New Hampshire, Lorette was raised by her grandparents from a young age on. Lorette attended Notre Dame school in Stanbridge, Canada, and then worked with her grandparents in their house painting business painting woodwork for nearly forty years. One of Lorette's fondest childhood memories was having her own horse, a retired racehorse named Josie, that she cared for and rode for nearly 12 years.

Lorette married Fred Noster in 1931 and was happily married for 65 years until his death in 1996. Blessed with both a son and a daughter, Lorette and Fred also had five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. She moved to Hernando County in the spring of 2000 to be close to her family and enjoys the county's friendly people and comfortable winters.

One of Lorette's memories was her surprise 90th birthday party where she got to see so many family members and friends. Over the years she is most proud of winning prizes for her handmade clothes at the county fairs and her square dancing.

Today, Lorette says that working in her garden gives her the most pleasure. She says that if she had to live her life over, she would continue her education past grade school and study music. Her favorite flower is the lilac and her favorite color is red. Lorette's advice for the young people today is, "go to college, don't smoke and eat natural foods."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Lorette Noster for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has.

UNDONE BUSINESS IN ENERGY CONSERVATION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a package of bills designed to take the next step in furthering energy conservation activities in the U.S., especially in the federal government. We stand here today facing the beginning of the winter heating season and a forecast of record high energy prices. It is possible that spot shortages may develop in parts of the country if the winter is especially severe.

Regardless of what happens with supply, energy costs will be high this winter. However,

they don't have to be as high in future winters and summers for homeowners and the federal government if we begin now to take some of the low-cost steps to better control our use of energy. Adoption of these measures now will pay big dividends in the future in the form of lower energy costs.

The federal government needs to be a leader on this issue. In 2000, federal agencies spent \$7.4 billion to consume 1 quadrillion BTUs of energy. Although energy consumption in government buildings has dropped by almost 25 percent since 1985, approximately \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars is still wasted each year. These bills will help ensure that federal buildings are meeting strong energy efficiency goals and that the federal government is taking a look at the full range of energy-saving technologies.

Installation of Metering in Federal Buildings: The installation of appropriate metering equipment in federal buildings for electricity, natural gas and other petroleum-based fuels, as well as steam and chilled water, provides the data that can enable the building operator to manage energy consumption and help cut the federal government's energy bill. Often this will require the installation of "smart meters" that provide much additional information for managing energy consumption. This bill amends the "National Energy Conservation Policy Act" (NECPA) to advance from 2012 to 2008 the date by which metering must be installed in certain large Federal buildings. Section 103 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 amended NECPA to require metering in Federal buildings by 2012. However, under current law, new buildings that will be built between now and the deadline will not be required to have metering installed that provides the relevant data for meaningful monitoring of energy consumption. Metering is far easier to install during construction than after the building is completed. Without this basic information, building performance cannot be evaluated and improved. I believe there is no reason why the government shouldn't get on with this program now rather than waiting another 7 years.

AOC Energy Management Responsibility: This bill clarifies the intent of the recently enacted H.R. 6, "The Energy Policy Act of 2005" with respect to the obligations of the Architect of the Capitol in energy conservation. The bill explicitly requires the AOC to comply with substantially all of the same building management requirements as the federal agencies. An exception is made with respect to reporting requirements. Under this legislation, the AOC will report results to the committees of jurisdiction, rather than the Secretary of Energy.

Validation of Design Energy Performance in Federal Buildings: A significant problem in new federal buildings is that they often use more energy than they were designed to use. Some of the excess consumption is due to the lack of adequate monitoring of the HVAC systems to ensure they are performing properly. However, some buildings are actually short-changed during the construction process as costs rise. Often omitted for cost reasons are some of the features that are designed to save energy. My bill directs the head of each federal agency to prepare a report comparing the actual energy performance of each new federal building with the design energy efficiency performance of the building. The report is to be completed 18 months after completion of the building and should also include remedies to bring the building into compliance

with design criteria, if necessary. A second report is required to explain the continued deficiencies that prevent the building from meeting its performance requirements.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HENRY
FAMILY FOR RECEIVING THE
OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARM
FAMILY AWARD FOR ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate an exceptional family from my home state of Alabama. On December 4th, Mike and Denise Henry of Montgomery County, Alabama, were awarded the 2005 title of Outstanding Young Farm Family for Alabama.

Mike and Denise are exceptional young farmers I met on a recent tour of Third District farms. The family manages a preconditioning business for weaned calves, and has 600 brood cows as well as registered Angus and Charolais cattle on their farm. They also own a catering business.

As the 2005 Outstanding Young Farm Family, the Henrys will participate in many events to encourage other young people to become involved in Alabama agriculture. This is a great honor for this family, and speaks to their hard work and dedication as outstanding leaders in our community and in our state.

As a member of the Committee on Agriculture in Congress, I am privileged to honor Mike, Denise and their five children for this award today, and congratulate them for this notable accomplishment.

CONGRATULATIONS MARTIN
METHODIST REDHAWKS, 2005
NAIA WOMEN'S SOCCER NA-
TIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the Redhawks of Martin Methodist College in Pukaski, Tennessee won the 2005 NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship during tournament play in Olathe, Kansas. This historical feat came just 2 years after collecting their first winning season in the program's history.

Martin Methodist entered the NAIA National Tournament as the top-seeded team. They defeated McKendree College, Concordia University, tied Westmont College (eventually winning on penalty kicks), and Lee University during the championship drive. The championship game winning goal was scored against seventh-seeded Lee University at 45:55.

During their winning season these hard-working ladies collected 23 wins, 17 shutouts, 125 scored goals and a mere eight goals allowed. They came together as a team believing they can compete at a high level and win. In doing so they etched their names in the history books and earned the respect of their peers and community.

The National Champion RedHawks' 2005 roster included Karen Carmack, Sarah Prendergast, Maria Sonnerborg, Nicole Scherger, Rachel Sharp, Victoria Charnley, Johanna Botold, Jessica White, Clare Sykes, Kelly Lewicki, Mizuki Yoshida, Amanda Johansson, Azusa Takeuchi, Sara Perrigan, Maiko Higashiyama, Lisa Mann, Harumi Someya, Megan Finnegan, Emily Allegood, Tassia Gimenez, Mauea Schuh, Nicole Grochowsky, Julia Bazi, Amanda Clark, Yvonne McField, and Jessica Nix. The Redhawks were lead by Head Coach Gerry Cleary and Assistant Coach Peter Anthony. Congratulations on a historic season.

RECOGNIZING CENTENARIAN
SALLY VANDER EST OF
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sally Vander Est of Hernando County, Florida. Sally has done something that all of us strives for, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Born February 2, 1905 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Sally was the youngest in her family. She has many fond memories of roller-skating, ice skating and learning to drive in 1936. In fact, Sally has never gotten a ticket.

Sally worked for 28 years in Health, Education and Welfare offices and for the city of Grand Rapids. Following her father's death, Sally cared for her mother into the late 1950's. The proudest moment of her life was when she married Adrian Vander Est at 59 years old, remembering the exact date and time of April 4, 1964 at 4 p.m.

Sally says that her mother was an A-#1 person and her best friend, noting that her mother was always her date during her high school days. While she wishes that she had gotten married earlier in life, she remembers that when her friend got engaged, she told Sally, "that she wanted the diamond but not what goes with it."

While she always thought she would live to be 136, Sally now says that being 100 is a miracle. Today, reading, listening to music, especially musicals, gives her the most pleasure. She enjoys being in Hernando County and away from shoveling the snow. Her favorite flower is the rose and her favorite color is blue, because it goes with her eyes. Her advice to young people is to, "stop smoking and stop this sex business and drinking, change your morals."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Sally Vander Est for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has.

HONORING ALICE WALKER ON HER
RETIREMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alice Walker for her dedicated serv-

ice to the community of Portland, Tennessee. On December 31, Alice will retire after serving 24 years as Executive Director of the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

During her time with the Chamber of Commerce, Alice has watched as Sumner County has experienced tremendous growth. Her leadership has helped to ensure that Portland keeps up with the development while maintaining its charm.

Alice has involved herself in many areas of the community. She was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club and served on the boards of the United Way, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce, American Cancer Society and many other fine organizations. In 1992, Alice was named Citizen of the Year by the Gallatin News Examiner.

Alice has said that Portland and the Chamber of Commerce will always have a special place in her heart. I know I join with the residents of Portland in saying that Alice also has a special place in our hearts, and her service will be missed greatly.

Alice, I commend you on 24 years of dedicated service to Portland, Tennessee, and I wish you all the best in your retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CLAY
COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL PAN-
THERS FOR THEIR CLASS 2A
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize today the players and coaches of the Clay County High School Varsity football team from Alabama's Third Congressional District.

On December 3rd, the Clay County Panthers won their sixth State Championship title with a 31-0 victory over Southern Choctaw in the Class 2A final. These talented young athletes won the game after beating a tough opponent. In particular I would like to give tribute to the Panther defense, who in this game helped shutout their ninth opponent of the season.

I am proud to acknowledge and congratulate the Clay County High School Varsity Football team of 2005 in the House today, and extend my most heartfelt congratulations to these talented young people for this significant accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO LEWIS AND CYNTHIA
UHLER

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate two good friends from my district in California, Lewis and Cynthia Uhler, as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on December 26th.

Lew and Cindy grew up together in San Gabriel, California. Long-time friends, they both graduated from Alhambra High School one year apart. However, their relationship gradually changed after Lew went off to Yale University, where he graduated in the class of

1955. They began dating when he returned home for visits during those college years. Meanwhile, Cindy also attended college and worked.

Mr. Speaker, it was during Lew's first year attending the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley that the Uhlers' life together really began. During the Thanksgiving break, Cindy agreed to Lew's marriage proposal and they decided to have the wedding the next time he was home. They both knew what they wanted and then made it happen. Thus, on the day after Christmas, December 26, 1955, they were married. This example of setting an important goal and then focusing on quickly realizing it reflects the pattern they have established ever since then.

Their first home together was Berkeley, California. Subsequently, Lew's duty in the Army led them to Baltimore, Maryland. However, their roots continued to be in Southern California until Governor Ronald Reagan designated Lew as the State Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Uhlers relocated to the Sacramento area. They have made their home in the beautiful community of Granite Bay for 35 years.

Lew served in Governor Reagan's cabinet as Assistant Secretary of the Health and Welfare Agency. In 1972, Governor Reagan asked Lew to organize and serve as Chairman of the Governor's Tax Reduction Task Force. With the assistance of a nationwide panel of advisors (including Nobel Laureates Milton Friedman and James Buchanan), the task force developed California's landmark Revenue Control and Limitation Act, which became a model for tax-expenditure limitation measures in many states.

A devoted wife and mother, Cindy has always made family the priority in her life. Raising four sons, separated in age by 11 years, was her chief mission. While she has always been interested in working and serving in many ways outside of the home, such activities were always relegated to part-time endeavors so she could focus on the great mission of nurturing her children.

Mr. Speaker, Lew is founder and President of the National Tax Limitation Committee (NTLC), one of the Nation's leading grass roots taxpayer advocacy organizations. With offices in the Sacramento Area and Washington, DC, NTLC works with the White House, Members of Congress, state legislators across the Nation and grassroots organizations to limit state and federal spending through statutory and constitutional enactments. In fact, Lew has been at the forefront of the national movements for a Tax Limitation/Balanced Budget Amendment to the United States Constitution. He has written numerous articles and opinion pieces on taxes and spending. He is the author of the book, *Setting Limits: Constitutional Control of Government*. He speaks internationally on fiscal issues and has appeared on numerous national, regional and local television and radio programs and has also been widely quoted in the print media.

Cindy has always become very involved in her church wherever the family has gone. Several times, she has served as secretary to the pastor and, as one son puts it, "running the show." It would be difficult to account for all the good and worthwhile efforts to which she has contributed.

Along with his fiscal policy work, Lew has been active in land development in Northern

California. He is also a member of the California Bar and serves Of Counsel with the Newport Beach law firm of Davis, Punelli & Keathley.

Lew and Cindy have four grown sons and three lovely daughters-in-law: Jim, John and Tricia, Kirk and Tami, and Mark and Echo. Of course, they also take great joy in their eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, undoubtedly, the life Lew and Cindy have created together is a great American success story—one rooted in a love that has endured and grown for fifty years and counting. Today, I join in commending them for their commitment to one another and their ongoing service to their community. Their dedication to God, family, and country is worthy of praise and emulation.

REVEREND DR. FRED L. MAXWELL, PATRIARCH OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN CENTRAL FLORIDA, AUGUST 2, 1907–DECEMBER 13, 2005

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a pastor at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Orlando in the Third Congressional District of Florida and an advocate for poor and homeless people in Central Florida, it was in the early 1990's that Rev. Maxwell founded the Grand Avenue Economic Development Corporation. Then, in 1994, due to the tremendous and continually increasing need for permanent housing opportunities for the homeless in the community, Maxwell with the aid of "his Member of Congress" Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, led an effort to apply for grant funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to create permanent housing for single, disabled homeless persons, a group rarely assisted. The effort was successful and the organization was awarded \$4,800,000 to create 100 units of permanent single room occupancy housing.

As a community advocate, economic development pioneer, and spiritual leader, Rev. Maxwell worked as a catalyst for change for more than a decade to bridge the gap between the rich and poor and black and white communities in Central Florida.

In addition to his public sector work, Rev. Maxwell was an author, "Where Is Thy Brother," a book of his sermons; a radio pastor for 22 years; started a community credit union; construction development company; tax preparation business; transportation company; citrus business, and even appeared in commercials promoting Florida orange juice.

Rev. Maxwell received the divine call to the ministry in 1926 at the age of 19, but it took him 20 years to heed the call in 1946. In 1950 he became the pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church, one of the oldest Black churches in Orlando, and at the same time serving as pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Alachua, also known as one of the oldest Black churches in Alachua County. In 1964 he was called to pastor at St. John Missionary Baptist Church located on Carter Street in the City of Orlando. In 1971, he organized the purchase of St. John's current location at 2025 West Central Boulevard, Orlando.

In the early 1980's many poor and homeless people were affected by major winter storms in Central Florida and Pastor Maxwell used the church's fellowship hall to provide food, shelter and clothing to people with no homes. It was at this time he became an advocate for the homeless and prayed, "Lord, let your will be done. I desire to do something to make conditions better for some homeless people, Lord, teach me, lead me, and guide me."

Maxwell retired as Senior Pastor of St. John Missionary Church in 2001, but never from the ministry and stated, "Retired, but not slacked up one bit."

[From the Orlando Sentinel, Dec. 14, 2005]

REVERED MINISTER, MENTOR DIES AT 98

(By Jeff Kuerth)

The Rev. Fred Maxwell, a man considered the father of Central Florida's black preachers, died Tuesday. He was 98.

Maxwell, who served as pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church for 37 years, was a civil-rights leader, ardent advocate for the homeless, human history book and a man so universally respected that he often was called in to mediate church disputes.

"This was a man anyone would want to know—similar to Rosa Parks to me. The Reverend Maxwell had that kind of presence," Orlando City Commissioner Daisy Lynum said. "You are talking about an icon."

To ministers such as the Rev. Randolph Bracy of New Covenant Baptist Church of Orlando, Maxwell was a mentor who encouraged them, and helped resolve the problems that arise with pastoring.

"He knew how to bring calm to a very raucous situation. He had a special gift that way," Bracy said. "I have lost a dear friend. I have lost a mentor."

Orange County Commissioner Homer Hartage remembers Maxwell as a tireless advocate for the homeless.

Maxwell was instrumental in securing a \$4.8 million federal grant to convert a former motel on Colonial Drive and John Young Parkway into a 127-unit rental complex for the homeless that became known as Maxwell Terrace.

But he didn't stop there. When Maxwell came to Hartage seeking support for another motel conversion on South Orange Blossom Trail, Hartage turned him down—four times. Maxwell kept coming back until Hartage finally relented.

Two years later, Hartage had a cousin who got out of prison and needed a place to transition back into society. He found an apartment at Maxwell Gardens on South Orange Blossom Trail.

"He ended up living in the same place I had problems approving," Hartage said.

Maxwell, who used a wheelchair, was still active and alert, working on a land deal in Maitland just a few months ago, Hartage said.

"He was still strong, and he was still able," Hartage said. "You really, in your heart, wanted to see him around forever. You just expect him to be there."

Eatonville Mayor Anthony Grant called for a moment of silence at a Town Council meeting Tuesday night to honor Maxwell.

"He stood up for everything that was right. We have lost a good leader," said Ella Dinkins, 87, a volunteer at the Zora Neale Hurston Museum.

Born in Williston on Aug. 2, 1907, Maxwell grew up in Lake County as the son of turpentine industry workers.

He said he first heard the calling to the ministry when he was 19 but rejected it. He worked as a carpenter, grew citrus and started a janitorial business.

Decades later, when he finally answered the calling, he was the father of six children. Maxwell preached throughout Central Florida. He became minister of Orlando's St. John Missionary Baptist in 1964 and remained there until 2001.

A man who left school in the third grade, Maxwell obtained his high-school diploma later in life and would become known for his intellect and eloquence. That was his entry into the worlds of the humble and the mighty.

"He was not pretentious, even though he was very intelligent, very capable," Lynum said.

"He is going to be remembered as an advocate, but not just for the homeless. He worked in the community unselfishly."

Maxwell's life spanned the Ocoee race riot of 1920 to the civil-rights struggles of the 1960s to the election of blacks to public office.

And he remembered it all until the end.

"He was just a rich repository of African-American history in Central Florida," Bracy said. "He was a living legacy."

TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, millions of Iraqis turned out to vote, and the fledgling democracy in Iraq took another step forward. I join all my colleagues in commending the Iraqi men and women for their action, and continue to thank the American men and women who are honorably serving abroad. Unfortunately, despite this important step, there still is a lack of leadership from the White House or from the Majority on the strategy that will bring our soldiers home victorious and bring them home soon.

And yet again, an opportunity for a meaningful debate on Iraq has failed to emerge. This debate must occur, and it must occur now. We see Iraqis voting, but we don't know when their governmental authority will take hold. We see the Iraqi army training, but we don't know when they will be ready to independently defend their nation. We see American troops serving and dying, but we don't know when they will return.

A strategy must be outlined, both to the American people and to the Iraqi people, which demonstrates a path to success. Rhetoric must be replaced with substance for such a strategy to develop. I believe that a concentrated effort will be necessary to urge the Iraqi people to take a lead in the war efforts and in the redevelopment efforts. Only by accelerating the transfer of responsibility to the Iraqis will they be ready to lead their nation toward a stronger democracy sooner rather than later.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the President finally admitted that this war was based on several false pretenses and was supported by claims and arguments that were wrong. The President and the Majority must admit that this continued lack of planning on their part is most importantly a disservice to our soldiers, a disservice to Congress, and a disservice to the American people. If we do not learn from this mistake it will be repeated—and the consequence will be more loss of American lives. I again join others in calling for a debate on

Iraq, I call for a real strategy and a real plan for success, and I applaud the Iraqi people for their recent success in taking part in the democratic process.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING COLONEL TONY A. IMONDI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Colonel Tony A. Imondi is retiring after a long and distinguished career.

Colonel Imondi received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautics from Dowling College in 1975. After completing Officer Training School in 1976, he entered the Air Force. In 1981, he received a Master of Science Degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California.

In 1987, he joined the B-2 Stealth Bomber program and became a member of the B-2 Operational Test and Evaluation team and the Deputy Commander for Operations of the 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron at Edwards AFB, CA. In September 1991, he became Strategic Air Command's very first B-2 pilot. He subsequently moved to Whiteman AFB, MO, upon delivery of the first production B-2. He was appointed Deputy Commander of the 509th Operations Group at Whiteman AFB, MO, in December 1993.

After his promotion to Colonel, he attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair in Washington, DC. Following his distinguished graduation from ICAF, he served two years on the staff of the Secretary of Defense monitoring weapons testing before returning to Whiteman as the Commander of the 509th Operations Group in 1998.

In 2000, Colonel Imondi assumed duties as the Vice Commander of the 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. In September 2001, after the terrorist attacks on the United States, Colonel Imondi deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as Vice Commander of the 28th AEW, conducting combat missions in Afghanistan. In 2002, Colonel Imondi was assigned to the Directorate of Operations, Headquarters AETC. Colonel Imondi is a command pilot with more than 5,500 hours of flying experience in a wide variety of Air Force aircraft.

Colonel Imondi's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Legion of Merit Award, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal and the Aerial Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Colonel Tony A. Imondi for his exception commitment to the United States Air Force and the United States of America.

PROVIDING THAT HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS HELD BY PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors to this resolution for their good intentions in opposing terrorism and promoting peace in the Middle East. However, I am concerned that it could have the opposite effect.

I join my colleagues in reaffirming the United States' total commitment to the security of Israel. I condemn Hamas wholeheartedly as a terrorist group whose aims are the destruction of Israel and whose tactics of murder are inexcusable and unjustifiable. They commit horrific terror attacks against innocent Israelis and, in doing so, set back the aspirations of the Palestinian people to statehood.

Through its social service networks and other actions, Hamas has made itself an important political force in Palestinian society. Therefore, the reality is that the way to defeat Hamas begins at the ballot box. I agree with leading Israeli and American security experts who believe that any efforts to exclude Hamas will only backfire and strengthen them. Instead, we must recommit to working against Hamas—to marginalize them, weaken them, disarm them, contain them, strengthen their democratic opponents, limit their power and influence, and eventually eliminate them.

As General (Ret.) Ephraim Sneh—the former West Bank military governor and Deputy Israeli Defense Minister—wrote in the Washington Post, "Under current conditions in the Palestinian territories, especially given the Palestinian government's weakness, political containment should precede the dismantling of Hamas's military infrastructure. The urgent objective is to defeat it in the next parliamentary elections. Steps that could strengthen it in the elections should be strictly avoided. Attempts to postpone the elections yet again, or to prevent Hamas's participation, or Israeli disruption of the elections as 'punishment' for the participation of Hamas, will strengthen Hamas in the Palestinian street instead of weakening it."

I am concerned that this resolution sends a message that would be harmful to Israeli security and set back efforts to establish the vision of a democratic Palestinian state that lives side-by-side with Israel in peace. Therefore, I cannot support the resolution.

RECOGNIZING CENTENARIAN ELSIE JOHNSON OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elsie Johnson of Hernando County, Florida.

Elsie has done something that all of us strive for, but that very few of us I will ever accomplish, celebrate her 101st birthday.

Born April 17, 1904 in Coventry, Connecticut, Elsie Johnson attended school in

Massachusetts. She worked for seventeen years at Sears where she manufactured shears. Married to Hugo Johnson in 1921, she and her husband were blessed with four children, nineteen grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren. She has proudly seen all of her children married and make lives of their own. Married for forty-two years, the happiest events in Elsie's life were her wedding day and the birth of her first daughter.

Elsie moved to Hernando County with her daughter and says that her favorite part of the county is the nice and friendly people who live there. Today Elsie says that she enjoys her crochet work and doing her housework. Passing on the wisdom of her years, Elsie says that her advice to young people today is to "work for what you have and don't expect it to be given to you and to develop higher values."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Elsie Johnson for reaching her 101st birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING AN AMERICAN GIANT, CONGRESSMAN JOHN D. DINGELL, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, certainly I would like to associate myself with the previous remarks of congratulations, admiration, and appreciation expressed by numerous members of this House about our esteemed and revered colleague, Congressman JOHN DINGELL of Michigan. It is my opinion that wisdom is the invaluable contribution which Chairman DINGELL continues to offer our deliberations; it is wisdom, gained from years of hard work, experience and keen analytical observations. At a time of relentless public policy turmoil and frequent partisan confrontations, this institution needs well-anchored, seasoned, counseling to blend with the know-how and energy of the fresh and the young. JOHN DINGELL's fifty-year life investment in the House of Representatives continually produces a dividend for all Americans.

LETTER TO CONGRESS FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF FORMER SENATOR PAUL TSONGAS

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, throughout his distinguished career, our former colleague, Senator Paul Tsongas, worked tirelessly to ensure that our environment and our nation's natural treasures would be preserved for future generations of Americans. He was particularly proud of his leadership in the Senate that led to the original designation of approximately 18 million acres of land in Alaska, including the Arctic Coastal Plain, as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Nothing better demonstrates the importance of the idea of generational responsibility for which he fought

so stridently than the statement below from his three daughters—Ashley, Katina and Molly. Senator Tsongas understood that he had a duty to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for his daughters, and this Congress must understand that it has a charge to continue to preserve this unspoiled wilderness for future generations.

Since its establishment 25 years ago, the threat to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has never been greater, but so is the support of American families for keeping drilling away from this magnificent pristine ecological gem. This statement of the Tsongas family is eloquent testimony to the fact that the wilderness values of our wildlife refuge system are eternal, whereas the energy value of a few oil wells will always be fleeting.

Letter to Congress from the daughters of former Senator Paul Tsongas:

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We are writing to express our hope that you will vote to keep any authority for oil and gas drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge out of the budget reconciliation bill. Our father, Sen. Paul Tsongas, believed the most valuable opportunity afforded to any member of Congress is the opportunity to make this country and this world a better place for future generations. The principle of generational responsibility was both grand and personal—he fought for America's children and for us, his three daughters and his future grandchildren and great-grandchildren. For this reason, he cosponsored the legislation to establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge with the expectation that it would not only be his enduring gift to us but also Congress's legacy to America's future generations. In doing so, he entrusted us with the responsibility to ensure that this unique natural resource remains protected, not just for a few decades, but for generations to come.

In the years after he left the Senate, our father would cite the creation of this magnificent wild arctic sanctuary as one of the accomplishments he was most proud of in his life. We know that he would be fighting for its preservation today. As his daughters and as Americans, we treasure the gift he gave us and the responsibility it carries. We take this responsibility very seriously and hope that you do as well.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF KOREAN-AMERICAN DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 487, supporting the goals and ideals of Korean-American Day. This important resolution also recognizes the 103rd anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States.

In January 1903 the first Korean immigrants came to the United States. Since then, Korean-Americans have raised families, participated in their communities, and contributed to the economy.

I am proud to represent the thousands of Korean-Americans living in my congressional district. These hard-working individuals have started numerous businesses which help to strengthen the economy of New York City.

Our nation's diversity is one of its greatest strengths, and I am pleased that this resolution honors the achievements of this vibrant community.

TRIBUTE TO OLGA DEFELIPPO

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with both great pride and sadness that I remember Mrs. Olga DeFelippo, a distinguished, life-long member of the Bay Ridge, Brooklyn community, a tireless advocate for the developmentally disabled, and an exemplary American, who recently passed away on November 3rd at the age of 88.

Today, I honor her memory as a selfless defender for those who could not defend themselves. As a mother of a developmentally disabled child herself, whom no school would accept, she understood personally how children with no voice of their own suffered injustice at the hands of a society that did not comprehend their plight.

This emboldened her to undertake a righteous crusade to render justice and dignity to the thousands of others like her son. She organized other parents and founded the Guild for Exceptional Children, an organization that today still works to help people reach their maximum potential and help families cope with the responsibility of caring for disabled family members at home. With the support of numerous elected and civic leaders in New York State, she lobbied exhaustively, and successfully, for legislation that guaranteed children with developmental disabilities the same right to an education as all other children, and to bring these human beings out of institutions and return them to the comfort of real homes, where they would be surrounded by those who could love and care for them.

Joining the ranks of our Nation's great reformers like Dorothea Dix, Mrs. DeFelippo's efforts to restore dignity to those, less able than we, cannot and will not be forgotten. Olga departed leaving behind her three children, Joseph, Vivienne, and Noel, and her two grandchildren Michael and Peter. However, while we mourn her loss, we as a Nation should smile proudly at her life and her deeds, for there is no greater credit to her accomplishments than having left this Nation and our world better than she had found it.

PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, the good news is that this Congress is at long last attempting to address the looming crisis in our nation's pension system. The bad news is that the best available evidence suggests that today's optimistically entitled Pension Protection Act doesn't achieve its stated objective.

Pension rules are complex. But in my view, the goals of pension policy are really pretty

simple. First, we must protect taxpayers from an S&L style bailout of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). And second, we must shore up the long term viability of the pension benefits promised our workers.

The PBGC today faces a current deficit of about \$23 billion, with additional liabilities estimated at up to \$100 billion. However, rather than closing that gap, H.R. 2830 actually increases the PBGC's deficit by \$9 billion over the next 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

Mr. Speaker, I simply cannot support pension legislation that puts taxpayers in greater jeopardy than they already face today.

With respect to pension security, we would do well to recall the Hippocratic admonition to "First, Do No Harm". Congressional action that results in companies terminating or freezing or failing to establish defined benefit plans in the first place hurts precisely the same workers we say we are trying to help. Yet that's precisely what this bill does.

A recent survey of the Committee on Investment of Employee Benefit Assets (CIEBA), an organization representing Chief Investment Officers from the nation's largest corporations, found that 60% of pension plans would be frozen or terminated if this legislation becomes law. The CIEBA goes on to warn that HR 2830 would "have long term consequences for current and future workers, with the potential to damage the retirement security of millions of Americans."

If we are not effectively securing the earned pension benefits of our workers, then what are we doing here today?

Mr. Speaker, I have a final objection to today's proceedings regarding the inability of our side to offer a Democratic substitute. If we had been allowed a substitute, this House would have had an opportunity to debate a range of critical issues not adequately addressed by the underlying bill—including the inappropriate use of the PBGC as a dumping ground for underfunded pensions run by companies seeking a competitive advantage in the marketplace, the right of older workers not to face age discrimination under federal pension rules and the ability of all workers to receive disinterested investment advice for their company sponsored defined contribution plans. Because the majority has abused its procedural power to block our alternative, these and other important issues that ought to be receiving our careful attention will not see the light of this day.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of the millions of hardworking Americans counting on their hard-earned pension benefits to support themselves and their families in retirement, this Congress has an obligation to pass meaningful pension reform.

However, I cannot and I will not support pension legislation that further imperils the taxpayers and workers real pension reform is supposed to serve.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 2830, and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA PRESIDENT
MOLLY C. BROAD

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Molly Corbett Broad, President of the University of North Carolina, who will retire from the University at the end of this month following more than eight years of dedicated service to the students, faculty and staff of the University, and to the people of North Carolina.

During President Broad's tenure, the University of North Carolina has begun its journey as a model 21st-century institution. Under her guiding hand, North Carolina voters approved in 2000 the largest revenue bond issue for higher education in the history of this nation. Funds from the "bond campaign" are transforming the sixteen constituent campuses of the University through the construction of modern student housing, innovative classrooms, state-of-the-art laboratories and world-class facilities. Bond funds have also enabled UNC-TV to completely digitize its broadcasts and provided the North Carolina Arboretum a remarkable opportunity to make significant investments in its infrastructure and physical plant. During this same period, external grant support to the University has nearly doubled, surpassing \$1 billion annually. All of these improvements will enable UNC to sustain its position as one of the premier university systems in the world.

In addition, President Broad has propelled North Carolina to the forefront of public higher education in the use of information technologies across all facets of University life. Her keen vision and recognition of the power of information technology to transform education and the economy of our nation and the world is widely acknowledged. Whether seeking her perspective on the academic usefulness of peer-to-peer technologies, the virtues of online and blended learning in support of access and teacher preparation, or the promise and potential of "open source" applications, CEOs of major U.S. corporations, international institutions of higher education, governments and not-for-profit organizations across the globe look to President Broad for sage advice and foresight.

During President Broad's tenure, UNC has also emerged as a national leader in ensuring access to quality higher education, especially among lower-income and first-to-college families. Over the past eight years, the number of North Carolina high school graduates going on to a two-year or four-year college has steadily increased. As a result, North Carolina now has one of the highest college-going rates in the country, and it is still climbing. One of the keys to this success has been the development—in partnership with the K-12 and community college systems—of CFNC.org, a one-stop web-based resource that enables students and their families to learn how to "prepare, apply and pay for college." Developed during the Broad administration, CFNC.org has become a national model in enabling colleges and universities to provide readily available, quality information to students and families about how to pay for a college education—filling a need

that the Congress and the public have indicated is so necessary.

Another major development that must be credited to President Broad is the development and growth of North Carolina's Need-Based Financial Aid Program. The North Carolina General Assembly has come to understand that as the college-going rate increases, more North Carolina students will come from circumstances that require financial assistance to make college possible. With legislative support, this need-based program has grown exponentially over the past several years and now provides nearly \$60 million to needy North Carolina students.

President Broad has also positioned the University squarely in the middle of North Carolina's economic revitalization. As the North Carolina economy transitions from historical industries such as tobacco, textiles and furniture to 21st-century industries like biotechnology, information technology and nanotechnology, President Broad has stressed that the University must and will play a key role in that transition. From the development on several campuses of biotechnology workforce training and research facilities to the emerging "biopolis" in Kannapolis, President Broad has guided the University to the forefront of efforts to re-energize the state's economy and prepare a brighter future for North Carolinians across the state.

She has taken other steps to ensure that our children receive the education they will need in order to be prepared to enter the 21st-century job market. Under President Broad's guidance, the University is on track to increase its certification of K-12 teachers by more than 60 percent over five years. In addition, during the Broad years the University has surged forward in its collaborations with K-12 schools to produce the highest qualified teachers and administrators through such programs as NC TEACH, the North Carolina Mathematics and Science Education Network, and the North Carolina Principal Fellows Program.

President Broad also has been a leader at the national and international levels, chairing or serving on the boards of such diverse organizations as the University Coalition for Advanced Internet Development (Internet2), the International Council on Distance Education, the Council on Competitiveness, and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. She co-chaired the study group that produced the Business-Higher Education Forum report, "Building a Nation of Learners," which has contributed greatly to the important national discussion about the skills our college graduates need to be competitive workers and effective citizens in our 21st-century global society.

We are fortunate that President Broad's retirement from the University does not mean she is retiring from professional life. She will assume a position at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government, and we fully expect her to continue to contribute to the advancement of higher education in North Carolina and beyond for many years to come. We are very pleased, however, that she will have more time to spend with her devoted husband and partner, Bob Broad, and her wonderful children and two grandchildren.

In closing, I want to cite several observations made by others about President Broad's service to the state and University over the past 8½ years. Shortly after announcing her

retirement, the Raleigh News and Observer commended the President for her "passionate commitment to excellence and for her effective shouldering of the system's noble mission of public service." The Durham Herald-Sun noted that President Broad will "leave the state's public universities . . . ever stronger for her stewardship." And the University's Board of Governors recognized that "as a result of her visionary leadership, this University and this state are better prepared to compete and prosper in a global economy." Of perhaps even more significance is the fact that President Broad was recently awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest tribute that can be paid to any son or daughter of North Carolina.

Molly Broad is one of the most personable, intelligent, conscientious, and committed leaders that I have ever had the pleasure to know. From the time of our first meeting, when I was delighted to learn of her intent to strengthen the university system's capacity to work with federal agencies and our congressional delegation, through our collaborative efforts to enhance research support, protect academic freedom, strengthen the university system's contribution to homeland security, and build the international component of higher education, I have enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to work with her. The people of North Carolina have benefited and will benefit for many years to come from President Broad's service at the helm of their university system. Molly, congratulations on a job well done, and thank you for all that you have accomplished for North Carolina.

**FURTHER CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006**

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3010, the Fiscal Year 2006 Appropriations Act for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. H.R. 3010 severely cuts education, health care, and human services that are crucial to North Carolina and to the country. This conference report is only marginally better than one that failed last month.

As the only former state schools chief serving in Congress, I know firsthand the devastating effects that these education cuts will have. At a time when we are asking our schools to do more than ever, H.R. 3010 cuts No Child Left Behind Funding by \$779 million below last year's level and makes it impossible for our schools to meet high standards of accountability. These cuts will destroy the morale of our teachers, parents and students.

America's working families are struggling to pay record costs for college tuition and expenses. Last November, President Bush made a campaign promise to increase funding for Pell Grants and invest in higher education. Even though the cost of a four year college education has increased thirty-four percent

since 2001, the maximum Pell Grant is frozen at \$4,050 for the fourth straight year in a row. America needs a highly trained and educated workforce to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st Century, but H.R. 3010 slashes funding for education at all levels and strains school budgets.

The failure of H.R. 3010 to represent the values of the American people extends beyond the walls of the classroom. H.R. 3010 slashes funding for community health centers that assist the almost 46 million uninsured Americans, and under funds the Centers for Disease Control as we face the possibility of a flu pandemic. And as winter officially begins next week with expected record prices to heat their homes, H.R. 3010 fails to increase funding for LIHEAP home heating assistance, which helps keep the heat on for low-income seniors and children.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3010 fails to represent the priorities of the American people. I urge my colleagues to vote against this bad bill and restore funding for essential services for our families.

THE BIOFUELS ACT OF 2005

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that achieves a comprehensive approach to the future of renewable fuels. As we move forward with national energy policy, I strongly believe we need to start taking steps in a direction that will provide consumers with another option other than just oil based fuels. With crude oil hovering around \$60 a barrel, renewable fuels like ethanol and biodiesel have started to become economically competitive with oil based fuels. By advancing the use and knowledge of renewable fuels, we can lower demand for imported oil by growing America's energy independence.

The BioFuels Act of 2005 will push forward an aggressive schedule for renewable fuels by mandating the renewable content of gasoline to be 25 billion gallons by 2025. Under the Energy bill, we are mandating that the renewable content of gasoline be at 4 billion gallons by 2006 which is 2 percent of total gasoline. Once implemented, the "25 by 25" initiative would raise that percentage up to 12.5%.

In addition, this legislation will ensure that government agencies will expand their use of renewable fuels. In the mentality of "practice what you preach" it is time for our own federal government to increase their use of ethanol and biodiesel where these fuels are reasonably available. In attempting to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, it should start right here in our nation's capitol.

I believe the most innovative part of this legislation is a new tax credit that will provide for consumers who purchase a new concept vehicle which combines hybrid and flexible fuel technologies. It is this marriage of these technologies that will create a vehicle that will be better steward to our environment and will further reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil. In providing this tax credit, we promote a greater sense of innovation for the future of automobiles.

One problem we face in the advancement of renewable fuels is the sub par infrastructure we currently have in place. With ethanol and biodiesel plants mostly focused within the Midwest and with only around 1,000 fuel stations that carry E-85 transportation fuels, it is essential that we provide tax incentives for the construction and development of ethanol and biodiesel plants. The legislation also builds upon the relationship between renewable fuels and industry that started in the last Energy bill. The legislation achieves this by providing multiple tax incentives for the construction and development of an infrastructure that will be more able to expand past the Midwest.

The BioFuels Act of 2005 will provide an aggressive 7-year depreciation schedule for all ethanol and biodiesel refining equipment. Also included within this section is a provision that will expand and extend the installation of alternative fuel refueling property that we in Congress passed earlier this year. The provision will allow taxpayers to claim a more effective percentage tax credit for the cost of installing clean-fuel vehicle refueling property to be used in a trade or business of the taxpayer or installed at the principal residence of the taxpayer. This ramped up percentage schedule would help accelerate the construction of the E-85 infrastructure.

Finally, this legislation makes the government put its money where its mouth is in advancing renewable fuels research and use. We can mandate the use of renewable fuels year after year but if we do not encourage research that will make renewable fuels more cost effective, the advancements in renewable fuels will only be small steps in innovation. The BioFuels Act reauthorizes the BioEnergy program that was handled in the 2002 Farm Bill at a level of \$140 million for the next 9 years. This program has been a driving force in the advancement of renewable fuels and under this legislation will focus heavily on cellulosic ethanol and hydrogen technologies.

It is now more important than ever that we move towards an energy policy that is less dependent on foreign oil. One of the attributing factors for the high costs of oil is the ever so present terrorist threats to the critical oil infrastructure in the Middle East and the other oil producing regions of the world. The volatility of the oil markets has been made fragile by international conflicts and disingenuous organizations. What happened in the 1970s with OPEC is a reminder of what can happen when nations are greatly dependent upon other nations for a single resource. By encouraging renewable fuels, we will have the ability to grow our own energy security and further ensure that we are not greatly affected by the volatility of world demand.

In closing, I believe the BioFuels Act of 2005 sets forth the comprehensive approach we need in order to blend the use and knowledge of renewable fuels into our society. The latest Energy Information Administration energy outlook report, comments that we can expect these oil prices around \$60 to be present from now until the year 2030. Also contained within this report showed that total petroleum consumption is projected to grow from 20.8 million barrels per day in 2004 to 26.1 million barrels per day in 2025. We need to make a serious investment in finding another option to oil. Oil will be used today, tomorrow and for probably the next 100 years but if we do not look towards other options, consumption and

demand will only further increase. Now is the time to advance our knowledge, our use and our partnership with industry of renewable fuels. This legislation is good for farmers, the automobile industry, consumers, the environment and most importantly, the goal of reducing our dependence on foreign oil. I believe the BioFuels Act of 2005, the legislation I introduce today, achieves the goals in renewable fuels we need to achieve. I ask my colleagues to join me in moving forward with this innovative approach.

IN MEMORY OF FORT WORTH POLICE OFFICER HENRY "HANK" NAVA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous police officer from my district who was slain on December 2, 2005. Fort Worth Police Officer Henry "Hank" Nava died from a gunshot wound to the head that he received on November 28 while searching for a man who was wanted by police. His loving family and many of his fellow officers were at his side when he died.

Officer Nava was a remarkable officer of the peace who was admired both by fellow officers and citizens of Fort Worth.

Officer Nava, a native of central Texas, began his career in law enforcement in 1988 as an Austin, Texas, park police officer. He became a Fort Worth police officer in 1992 and in the ensuing 13 years worked tirelessly to protect the citizens of Fort Worth. Officer Nava worked for the Plano, Texas, police department for a brief period in 1999 but soon returned because he missed Fort Worth.

During his career, Officer Nava served as a Fort Worth patrol officer, a neighborhood patrol officer, a school resource officer and, for the last 2½ years of his career, as a member of the North Division Crime Response Team. Officer Nava quickly earned the reputation of a hard working officer who always had a smile and the officer who wore the Oakley sunglasses. Often, after his shift ended, Officer Nava would take one more call for help. He mentored young people through the Police Department Explorer Scout program. His desire to help others was exemplified when he and several members of the Fort Worth Police Department traveled to New Orleans to deliver relief supplies to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Officer Nava was devoted to his wife, Teresa, and his children Kayleigh, 9, and Justin, 4. He was an outstanding and loving husband as well as a friend to Teresa. Because of his love for his wife, he always took time from his work to be with her whether it was on their yearly cruise or a call home. His last call to Teresa came just minutes before he entered the home where he was fatally shot. His children were the joy of his life. He showered them with his love and attention, as only a proud father can do. Whether it was having fun around the family backyard pool or participating in an activity, Officer Nava always made certain his children had his full attention and that the moment was special for them.

Officer Nava's commitment to law enforcement, his deep love for his family and his

pride in Fort Worth made him an outstanding Fort Worth police officer and citizen. I am proud to honor Officer Henry "Hank" Nava for his services to Fort Worth and its citizens. He will not be forgotten.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FATHER TIMOTHY HANNON

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life of Father Timothy Hannon, Pastor of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, who passed away on November 2, 2005.

Timothy Hannon was born the eldest of eight children in County Clare, Ireland. He was ordained into the priesthood in 1962 and began his life-long dedication of service and devotion to the Catholic Church under the Archdiocese of Miami.

He served as Associate Pastor at St. Anthony Parish in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from 1962 to 1964, Associate Pastor at Nativity Parish in Hollywood, Florida from 1964 to 1968 and as associate Pastor at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish in Delray Beach, Florida from 1968 to 1971. He then founded St. Malachy in Tamarac, Florida in 1971 and remained there as Pastor until 1980.

He dedicated the next 25 years, where his vocation began, at St. Anthony.

Under his leadership St. Anthony School and Parish, the oldest in Broward County, flourished. He worked to ensure that students were given the best Catholic education possible and parishioners a welcoming place of worship. He encouraged all those with whom he came into contact to grow in mind, body, and spirit. He will be remembered for his gentle manner and quiet intellect.

Father Hannon is survived by his four brothers, Patrick, Michael, James, and Flan, and two sisters, Ann and Mary, all of whom live in Ireland. His brother John, also a priest, was killed by insurgents while serving last year in Nigeria.

Mr. Speaker, Father Hannon served as a role model, a spiritual leader, a guidance counselor, and an educator to so many in the St. Anthony family and beyond. Those that knew him were blessed by his friendship and his many accomplishments will have a lasting impression in the community.

ACCOUNTABILITY OF THOSE SERVING ON INTERNATIONAL FORCES AND MISSIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I want to inform colleagues of an important breakthrough in combating human trafficking achieved at the recently concluded Ministerial Council meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). There have been growing concerns in recent years

that some individuals serving as peacekeeping forces, or civilian contractors involved in international operations and other personnel serving with international organizations have helped fuel the demand side of the human trafficking cycle, particularly for sexual exploitation. These concerns stem in part from shocking revelations of complicity by elements in these operations with trafficking networks profiting from this contemporary form of slavery.

Serving in my capacity as Special Representative on Combating Human Trafficking for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I have pressed for adoption of a zero-tolerance policy regarding trafficking in human beings by personnel involved in peacekeeping missions, along with related education and training.

Overcoming pushback from various quarters, I am pleased to report that agreement was reached earlier this month among the 55 OSCE countries meeting in Slovenia, including numerous countries actively involved in peacekeeping missions around the globe, to ensure the highest standards of conduct and accountability of persons serving on peacekeeping forces and other international missions. Importantly, the OSCE countries have pledged to step up efforts to prevent military and civilian personnel deployed abroad from engaging in trafficking in human beings or exploiting victims of trafficking. Countries with deployed military and civilian personnel have also agreed to work cooperatively with authorities in countries hosting such missions, in efforts to combat trafficking in human beings.

While many of the cases involve sexual exploitation and abuse, the OSCE countries also recognized that cases involving forced labor also need to be aggressively pursued and have committed to enforce relevant standards of conduct and to ensure that any such cases are properly investigated and appropriately punished.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to be successful in combating human trafficking, we must be proactive at home and abroad. The OSCE has proven to be an important forum for building consensus and cooperation on anti-trafficking measures throughout the expansive OSCE region. Developing this consensus has required both tact and tenacity. In this regard, I want to recognize the tireless efforts of Janice Helwig and Maureen Walsh, two outstanding professionals on the Helsinki Commission staff. Having secured this important agreement at the OSCE, the Commission will continue to remain fully engaged in monitoring its implementation.

Mr. Speaker. I submit for the RECORD a copy of the Ministerial Decision, agreed to by the 55 OSCE participating States.

DECISION No. 16/05 ENSURING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF PERSONS SERVING ON INTERNATIONAL FORCES AND MISSIONS

The Ministerial Council:

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments to combat trafficking in human beings, in particular 2000 Vienna Ministerial Council Decision No. 1, 2002 Porto Ministerial Declaration and Maastricht Ministerial Decision No. 2/03 and the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as its addendum "Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance",

Recalling the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in

Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, and its comprehensive definition of trafficking in persons.

Reiterating that trafficking in human beings, a contemporary form of slavery, seriously undermines the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Concerned that military and civilian personnel serving on international peacekeeping forces or other international missions, including contractors, as well as field presences of international organizations including the OSCE could be a contributing factor to the demand side of the trafficking cycle.

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations as well as other international organizations to develop and enforce "zero-tolerance" policies to prevent trafficking in human beings by both forces and other staff, which, combined with education and training, are required.

Recalling the ongoing activities in all relevant international organizations aimed at the development of common standards and best practices to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings.

Concerned about reports of misconduct by military and civilian personnel serving on international peacekeeping forces or other international missions, including reports of engaging in trafficking in human beings as defined in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, strongly condemning such acts, and noting that they have a detrimental effect on the fulfillment of mission mandates.

Concerned also about reports of misconduct by military and civilian personnel serving on international peacekeeping forces or other international missions including reports of sexually exploiting and abusing local and refugee populations, as well as reports of cases of forced labour, strongly condemning such acts, and noting that they have a detrimental effect on the fulfillment of mission mandates.

Emphasizing the need for more information and awareness-raising concerning these issues among personnel serving on international missions.

Taking note of efforts by the United Nations aimed at ensuring that personnel serving on peacekeeping forces or other international missions are held to the highest standard of conduct and accountability.

1. Calls on participating States to improve, where necessary, measures to prevent military and civilian personnel deployed abroad to peacekeeping forces or other international missions, as well as OSCE officials, from engaging in trafficking in human beings or exploiting victims of trafficking. In this regard, the participating States will seek to ensure that their national laws, regulations, and other relevant documents can be enforced with respect to their nationals who are serving on peacekeeping forces or other international missions, with a view to ensuring the highest standards of conduct and accountability;

2. Calls on participating States with deployed military and civilian personnel to assist, within their competence and respective mandates, responsible authorities in the host country in their efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. Each participating State will take into account policies and consequences regarding trafficking in human beings when instructing its military and civilian personnel to be deployed abroad;

3. Calls on participating States to take appropriate action necessary to prevent sexual

exploitation and abuse, as well as cases of forced labour, by military and civilian personnel deployed by them who are serving on peacekeeping forces or other international missions, to enforce relevant standards of conduct in this regard, and to ensure that any such cases are properly investigated and appropriately punished;

4. Reaffirms the importance of implementing the Code of Conduct for OSCE Officials and Staff Instruction 11 addressing trafficking in human beings and instructs the Secretary General, drawing on the expertise of the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit, to update these documents to make them in line with this decision, and to circulate them to the participating States for comments and discussion prior to issuance;

5. Invites the governments of the OSCE Partners for Co-operation also to commit to the same, principles as are set forth in this decision and to that end tasks the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the OSCE Secretary General to share relevant information and materials with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation;

6. Tasks the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to share with relevant international organizations OSCE training materials and other information that could assist in combating trafficking in human beings;

7. Tasks the OSCE Secretary General to report annually to the Permanent Council on the implementation of this decision in regard to the Code of Conduct for OSCE Officials and Staff Instruction 11, in accordance with provision III 11.1 of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

THE GLOBAL TRADING SYSTEM

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, as the United States continues to lead the world in trade and commerce, the rules-based system which we helped pioneer has been steered off course by some of our trading partners who profit from the system without submitting to its disciplines. New members in the global trading system are given sufficient time to adjust to the established rules. However, economic giants like China have taken advantage of this system, to the detriment of our manufacturers and workers.

While China has benefited from our relatively low tariffs and high degree of transparency, it has failed to live up to the obligations to which it agreed in acceding to the WTO, the global trading body tasked with setting the rules. As a result, America's manufacturing sector, and most recently the pipe and tube industry, is dwindling away, struggling to survive in a market distorted by currency manipulation, government subsidization of industry and illegal surges of cheap imports!

This month, however, President Bush and the administration have an opportunity to send a powerful message by standing up and protecting America's domestic pipe and tube industry by implementing quota relief as part of

the China-specific safeguard, or Section 421, to help combat China's low-cost pipe imports which illegally flood our markets.

Included by Congress as a condition of China's accession to the WTO, Section 421 is a critical element in our trade remedy arsenal because it augments the antidumping and countervailing duty laws by providing domestic producers with a way to respond to absolute or relative increases of imports over periods of time that result in a market disruption.

Between January 2002 and February 2005, five Section 421 petitions were filed and initiated by the ITC. In three of those cases the ITC found that imports caused market disruption, yet no relief was granted to the industries and workers involved under this statute. Earlier this year, seven U.S. standard pipe steel producers, two of which are in my district in western Pennsylvania, filed a Section 421 trade case to seek relief from market disruptions cause by a surge of Chinese pipe imports.

As a result of these surging imports: domestic production and shipments are down by more than 25 percent; 20 percent of the domestic workforce has been laid off; and, from 2002 to 2004, Chinese market share increased from 0.4 percent to just over 10 percent. In addition to standard pipe, China is now the single largest exporter of all pipe and tube to the U.S., and millions of tons of excess steel and pipe and tube capacity in China threaten to wipe out the U.S. pipe industry.

There is no doubt that surging imports are rapidly displacing domestic producers from recent market share. Our American pipe producers have clearly fallen victim to a torrent of unfairly traded imports from China and it is our legal right to respond by imposing this China-specific safeguard program. It is the right thing to do.

I'm pleased that the ITC agreed and chose to advance the pipe and tube petition this past October. Now, however, we have yet another Section 421 trade case, standing before the President, awaiting its fate. If granted quota relief, this domestic industry will be afforded a period to restructure and recover from the damage it has suffered as a result of the illegal import surge.

Our standard pipe producers will be able to rehire laid off employees and finally have the opportunity to make investments to regain competitiveness and continue to contribute to their local economies into the future. A large number of members of this body agree—62 of them joined me in sending a letter to the President urging him to grant relief this month.

It is imperative the President grant the domestic standard pipe industry quota relief under Section 421, and preserve the American steel industry, an industry critical to our nation. In a world where we have to compete to win and win to survive, it is critical that our manufacturers, workers and all of our businesses compete on a level playing field.

America's standard pipe industry contributes to the making of some of the finest products in the world. Providing these firms quota relief under Section 421, will level the playing field for these domestic manufacturers and allow them to thrive in the international trading system of today.

TRIBUTE TO MR. NICK GEORGE
BRONZAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Nick George Bronzan of Fresno, California. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, two daughters, Mary and Ann, and son Bruce.

Mr. Bronzan lived a life of honor, compassion and sincere loyalty to those he cared for and to the causes for which he fought.

Born in Stockton, California, Nick spent his childhood in Manteca. Upon graduation from high school, he attended California State University, Fresno and was a Bulldog academically and competitively as the captain of the Fresno State football team. Colleagues recall him as being a real leader and remember him being more interested in the condition and lives of the players than in winning the game.

After graduating from Fresno State in 1939, Mr. Bronzan spent five years as the Kerman High School coach in various sports and teaching mathematics. He worked for 4 years in the Fresno Young Men's Christian Association before becoming the executive secretary of the YMCA in Southern California. Finally settling in Fresno, Mr. Bronzan took a job as the executive director of the Central Valley YMCA in 1968.

Mr. Bronzan was a longtime advocate for youth, seniors, and foster children. He fought for the rights of those who could not fight for themselves. Not only did he work for the foster grandparents program but also served as its director. Mr. Bronzan volunteered alongside others older than 60 to work with children lacking parents and families. He was a member of the Fresno Rotary Club and was elected chairman of the Fresno-Madera Counties Service Area Task Force. His contributions helped develop the Area Agency on Aging for those two counties and in 1984 he was reappointed to the California Commission on Aging and Long-Term Care.

Mr. Bronzan served his community in more ways than one. Although his passing brings sadness to his family, Nick Bronzan's memory will forever live on in the lives of the many people he touched.

**PROVIDING THAT HAMAS AND
OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZA-
TIONS SHOULD NOT PARTICI-
PATE IN ELECTIONS HELD BY
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY**

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 575, expressing the sense of Congress that Hamas should not participate in elections held by the Palestinian Authority.

Now, many of my colleagues might suggest that my opposition to this non-binding resolution means that I stand with the terrorists. I would argue that it means exactly the oppo-

sition. You see, Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I want to see peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. I want a free and democratic Palestinian state to stand side by side with the free and democratic Israeli state. And most importantly, I want both states and their peoples to be safe and secure.

For the first time, the Palestinians are engaging in a truly democratic process. I would defer to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian people on how to do this. Mr. Speaker, I have to be honest with you, I do not want foreign leaders telling the United States how to conduct our elections and I think we owe President Abbas and the Palestinian people the same courtesy.

In fact, this is one of the rare occasions that I actually agree with the Bush Administration. On September 20th, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in response to a question regarding Hamas being a part of the election, "... we understand that the Palestinian political system is in transition, that it is in transition toward a democratic system, and that has to be a Palestinian process." Secretary Rice went on to say, "This is going to be a Palestinian process and I think we have to give the Palestinians some room for the evolution of their political system."

We need to vest Hamas in the democratic process.

I want to be clear, Mr. Speaker, terrorism is wrong and it should not be tolerated.

However, if Hamas is brought into the process and given the opportunity to run for political office and become part of the political establishment, they will assume responsibility for governance—leading to moderation.

I would submit for the RECORD a statement by Debra DeLee, President and CEO of Americans for Peace Now. Ms. DeLee nicely lays out the position that Palestinian Authority President Abbas is in and why it is important for the elections to go forward in a way that is inclusive in order to moderate those who traditionally turned to terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I find myself in the interesting position of voting against this resolution and agreeing with Secretary Rice: the United States must let the Palestinians find their way to a democratic state.

THE SHARONIZATION OF HAMAS

(By Debra DeLee)

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's recent statement that he would withhold Israeli cooperation from Palestinian legislative elections in January if Hamas candidates take part flies in the face of his own experience with the moderating influence that holding public responsibility can have on extremist views. In explaining his 180 degree turn from being a strong advocate of Israeli settlements in Gaza to the driving force behind their evacuation, Sharon has repeatedly observed that, "what you see from here [in the Prime Minister's Office], you don't see from there." In other words, it was not until he obtained a position of ultimate responsibility for Israel that Sharon began to recognize the burden that the Gaza settlements imposed on the state.

There is no equivalence between the horrific terrorist acts that Hamas has inflicted on Israelis and Sharon's passion for settlement expansion.

Yet it's clear that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is trying to rein in his Islamist opposition through the process of Sharonization (i.e., co-opting the militants by encouraging them to run for public office

and to assume responsibility for governance, in the hope that this process will lead to their moderation.)

In an ideal world, Abbas would decide to round up Palestinian terrorists, place a call to his Interior Minister, then sit back to watch the thugs put in prison or die in attempting to evade arrest. But we do not live in an ideal world. While Abbas deplores terrorism, he wants to avoid a Palestinian civil war. And even if he was willing to launch one, with Abbas already struggling to control events on the ground, it's doubtful that the troops at his disposal would win.

Further, if defeating Palestinian terrorists with force alone was so easy, Israel would have done it long ago. Israel's military might has been vigorously applied to the occupied territories for nearly 40 years. It's chalked up some impressive tactical victories. But it has not succeeded in drying out the swamp of terror. Hamas and its fellow travelers are still around, which is why Sharon is busy encouraging Abbas to fight them.

Abbas deserves a chance to see if his way will work better, with the caveat that he must be prepared after the Palestinian legislative elections to forcefully confront those individuals who continue to engage in terror. It is in Israel's interest to see that Abbas is fortified with development aid and encouraged to carry out internal reforms, as well as to ensure that the Palestinian security forces loyal to him are strengthened in order for him to be able to carry out this task.

It is also in Israel's interest to ensure that these upcoming elections go as smoothly as possible. With its departure from Gaza, Israel will not be able to impede the contests in that region. But it could decide—as Sharon has said—to make it impossible for Palestinian voters in East Jerusalem to cast ballots or for candidates, campaign workers, and voters to move from town to town in the West Bank. If such Israeli impediments are put in place, they would delegitimize any victory that secular nationalist candidates might achieve over Hamas candidates, thereby strengthening the hand of the very terrorists that Israel seeks to weaken. They would also shatter the calm that allowed Israel to withdraw quietly from Gaza.

If the Bush Administration has been less than enthusiastic about Sharon's views of the Palestinian elections, it's because the White House has been pursuing the Sharonization of militants operating in areas under American control. Kurdish and Shiite militias have not been forced to disband in Iraq, yet that hasn't stopped representatives of those groups from running in elections and winning top positions in the current government. If the U.S. demanded that the armed supporters of these candidates lay down their weapons before their leaders could assume power, it must have done so in a whisper.

Hamas candidates did well in two earlier rounds of municipal elections. Lo and behold, they have found it necessary to work with Israelis at the local level in order to deal with mundane issues like sewage and water. And their Israeli counterparts have been willing to talk to them. This kind of practical contact is a long way from having terrorists beat their spears into pruning hooks, but perhaps it points to a way forward.

The Bush Administration should encourage Sharon to let Abbas see if he can duplicate this process at the national level of Palestinian politics. If it succeeds, Israel will be more secure, and Palestinian society will be more stable. If it fails, Israel will still have ample military strength upon which it can rely.

CONGRATULATING BORDER PATROL AGENT THOMAS H. NUETZEL ON RECEIVING THE 2005 TOP HUMANITARIAN AWARD FROM THE U.S. BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, as we continue our commitment to securing our nation's borders, I would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to one of our outstanding border patrol agents, a former resident of Kailua, Hawaii and a real "local boy": Thomas H. Nuetzel.

Today, at the 2005 Commissioner's Annual Awards Ceremony, Tom will receive the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection's Top Humanitarian Award in recognition of his bravery and service. Tom is currently assigned to the Office of Field Operations at the Douglas Port of Entry in Arizona.

In July, while on the way home from dinner, Tom, his wife Dawn, and their two children observed a rollover vehicle accident. The couple stopped to assist the two adults and two young children trapped in the vehicle. The driver told Tom that there were several full gas cans in the trunk of the overturned vehicle. The heavy rainfall, flooding, and severe lightning magnified a critical situation.

Tom and Dawn immediately called Emergency Medical Services. Then, standing in knee-deep water, Dawn kept the passengers calm as Tom extracted each family member through a broken window. The passengers awaited the arrival of EMS in Tom and Dawn's car. All victims of the rollover accident are doing well, thanks to the selflessness of Tom and Dawn Nuetzel.

Again, I extend a sincere mahalo (thank you) to Tom and Dawn for their act of courage and compassion. I would also like to thank all our border patrol agents that work daily to keep our nation safe and secure.

Mahalo, and aloha!

REQUIRING RATE INTEGRATION FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will require rate integration for wireless interstate toll charges. Specifically, this legislation would amend Section 254(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, to provide for rate integration of wireless long distance service within the United States, including the territories. With this legislation I intend to require uniformity in rates charged by cellular phone and other wireless service providers for calls and communications to and from Guam within the United States.

Section 254(g) directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) "to adopt rules to require that the rates charged by providers of interexchange telecommunication services to subscribers in rural and high cost areas shall

be no higher than the rates charged by each such provider to its subscribers in urban areas."

Pursuant to Section 254(g), the FCC promulgated a regulation (FCC Order 98-347) to cover Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) as an interexchange service. CMRS includes Personal Communications Service (PCS) and cellular services. In defense of their Order, the FCC noted that "if Congress had intended to exempt CMRS providers, it presumably would have done so expressly as it had done in other sections of the [1996 Telecommunications] Act."

Subsequent to its issuance, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit vacated FCC Order 98-347, by ruling that interexchange telecommunication services do not encompass CMRS. In its ruling, the Court cited the phrase "interexchange telecommunications service" contained in Section 254(g). Since wireless telecommunications do not use exchanges, the Court held that "it is by no means obvious that the Congress, when it used a phrase in which the word 'interexchange' is an essential term, was referring to CMRS."

It is unclear from the language of the statute whether section 254 applies to wireless services. Section 254 does not include specific language regarding its applicability to wireless services, not does it specifically exclude such services. Moreover, the legislative history of Section 254(g) is not instructive as to Congress' intent regarding the applicability of the rate integration requirement to wireless services.

Clearly, ambiguity in the law exists. As a result, cellular customers are subject to varying rates for calls made within the United States. This is particularly evident with respect to rates assessed to calls made to Guam and the other U.S. territories under service plans offered to cellular customers within the 48 contiguous states of the United States. Again, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires rate integration for noncellular, landline communication services. The legislation introduced today would simply extend this same requirement to wireless communications.

Rate integration for wireless interstate toll charges is important to businesses and individuals located on the U.S. mainland who engage in regular and reoccurring voice communication with other businesses and contacts located in the offshore territories. Family members and friends are among the customers who are assessed higher and different rates for cellular calls made to Guam or the other territories. These differences in wireless rates exist despite the fact that the U.S. territories are included in the North American Numbering Plan, the numbering plan for the Public Switched Telephone Network of the United States.

This legislation would bring the uniformity and fairness in rates desired by those in Guam wishing to keep in closer contact with relatives, friends, and associates who reside in other parts of the United States through the latest technology. Additionally, as technology in telecommunication advances, laws should be updated and developed to keep pace. This legislation would update existing law to take into account advances in and the popularity of wireless telecommunications since enactment of the 1996 Act. The legislation would do so in a manner consistent with both a previous,

but vacated, FCC Order and with rate integration requirements applied to other more traditional telecommunication technology.

I look forward to addressing the issue of rate integration for wireless services as part of the legislative effort to reauthorize the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. WILLIAM B. BLACK

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to extend congratulations to a government employee who has shown outstanding dedication through his services to the Department of Defense.

Deputy Director, Mr. William B. Black has serviced the Department of Defense for over forty-five years. He is the recipient of the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, which is the highest honor a civilian can receive by the Secretary of Defense. The award is given to an individual whose career reflects exceptional devotion to duty, as well as, significant contributions to the efficiency, economy, or other improvements in the Department of Defense operations.

Mr. Black aided in the success of intelligence production and cyber operations for assignments in Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, and the War on Terror. His determination and ambition has also abetted the National Security Agency's mounting field of information operations as a result of his role as the Special Assistant to the Director for Information Warfare.

The National Security Agency was able to participate resolutely in the War on Terror because Mr. Black led signals intelligence and information assurance missions into the digital network era.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to recognize Mr. William B. Black for his service to this country. The exceptional work he has done for the Department of Defense warrants great recognition. Dedication to this country and to the betterment of our intelligence operations is a vital part of our success as a powerful nation and should be observed and commended more frequently.

TO PROVIDE CERTAIN AUTHORITIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am attaching an exchange of letters between Chairman HYDE and Chairman DAVIS concerning the bill H.R. 4436, "To provide certain authorities for the Department of State, and for other purposes" for printing in the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, December 14, 2005.

Hon. TOM DAVIS,
Chairman, House Committee on Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the bill, H.R. 4436, to provide certain authorities for the Department of State. There are certain provisions in the bill which fall within the shared Rule X jurisdiction of your Committee. Specifically, I refer to the language in section 4 of the bill relating to increased limits applicable to post differentials; section 6 of the bill which extends the authorization of personal services contracting authority that waives civil service laws and danger pay allowances; and section 7 relating to official residence expenses. Based on discussions between the two committees, I will change the language in this bill as called up to include a modification in section 4 (e) relating to reporting requirements to include your Committee and to sunset the authorization in section 6. Section 7 will remain as in the introduced bill.

In the interest of permitting this Committee to proceed expeditiously to the floor consideration of this bill, I request your Committee to waive further consideration of this matter. I understand that such a waiver only applies to this language in this bill, and not to the underlying subject matter. I will urge the Speaker to name Members of your Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider this bill.

I appreciate your willingness to allow us to proceed. I will insert this exchange of letters into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2005.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman, House Committee on International Relations,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter concerning the bill H.R. 4436 to provide certain authorities for the Department of State. I concur in your judgment that certain provisions which you mentioned fall within the jurisdiction of your Committee.

Based on conversations between the two committees and your agreement to make certain changes in the language which will be considered under suspension of the rules, I am willing to waive this committee's right to consider the bill. In so doing, I do not waive its jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill. I appreciate your commitment to urge the Speaker to name Members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider this bill and to insert this exchange of letters into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

TOM DAVIS,
Chairman.

HONORING MR. BILL PAULI ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE CALIFORNIA
FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bill Pauli for his efforts and contribu-

tions to the agricultural industry for his years of service as President of the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Although Mr. Pauli is retiring, his dedication and commitment to enhancing the quality of agriculture in the State of California will always remain sincerely appreciated.

Mr. Pauli's passion for agriculture led him to pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree in agricultural economics and business from the University of Nevada, Reno. He emerged through the industry as a product of some of California's most celebrated wine grapes and Bartlett pears in his home town of Potter Valley. Mr. Pauli's endeavors also led to the establishment of the award-winning Braren-Pauli and Redwood Valley Cellars.

Colleagues, friends, and family alike hail Mr. Pauli as someone who has exemplified genuine concern and dedication to the progression of American farmers. Mr. Pauli's advocacy for agricultural issues dates back to the 1970s. He stood before the United States Congress to address farm concerns and served as a member of agricultural organizations such as the State Compensation Insurance Board, North Coast Grape Growers Association and Tri Valley Growers Cooperative.

Serving as the President of the state's most active and esteemed agricultural organization, Mr. Pauli established many enduring programs that have revamped the image of the Bureau. Among them are The Farm Bureau Leadership program which has brought vibrancy to the organization. In addition, Ag in the Classroom is highly esteemed as an educational tool, and The Plan to Protect California's Family Farms has added to the Bureau's dedication to preserve the efforts of California farmers to provide the highest quality products.

In addition to his extensive profile of agricultural issues, Mr. Pauli has been an outstanding member of his community. He donates much of his time to protecting and ensuring the welfare of the residents of Potter Valley and serves as a volunteer chief of the Potter Valley Fire Department.

When asked what he would miss the most upon leaving his post, Mr. Pauli answered, "The people, the opportunity to see the people, to see their farms and ranches." It is through the efforts of people like Bill Pauli that California is the breadbasket of the world. It is with a great pride and gratitude that I rise to thank and honor Mr. Pauli for his thirty-five years of commitment and loyalty to the citizens of California.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RE-
STORES SUPPORT FOR INTER-
COUNTRY ADOPTION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that yesterday our colleagues in the European Parliament voted unanimously in favor of an important measure urging the Romanian Government to settle the cases of applications for international adoption which have been in limbo since the Romanians imposed a moratorium in June 2001. The amendment was successfully offered to the European Parliament "Report on the Extent of Romania's

Readiness for Accession to the European Union." Final approval on the report was adopted by the Parliament on December 15.

Amid credible allegations of corruption in the adoption system in Romania, the European Union had put intense pressure on Romania four years ago to impose a moratorium on international adoptions. In June 2004, Romanian Law 273/2004 enacted a permanent ban on international adoptions and, in practice, the law was being applied retroactively to cases that were registered before the ban came into effect on January first of this year. There were approximately 1,500 cases pending in which the children had been matched with parents in Western Europe, and 211 cases had been matched with adoptive parents in the United States.

As a party to the Hague convention on Inter-country Adoption, Romania has agreed to certain international standards and Principles. In fact, intercountry adoption is a recognized as a legitimate option for children who have not found permanent placement in their country of origin. The amendment adopted by the European Parliament is consistent with this principle and urges settlement of the pending cases "with the goal of allowing inter-country adoptions to take place, where justified and appropriate, in those special cases." I applaud the European Parliament in offering this assurance that they will not stand in the way of these adoptions.

I am hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that this action by the European Parliament will embolden authorities in Romania to look again at the cases which have been pending. Given this reassurance that resolving the pipeline cases will not jeopardize their efforts toward accession, I would hope that the authorities would consider the cases only with the best interests of the children in mind. They have heard the European Parliament speak with one voice in favor of adoptions for these pipeline cases.

Mr. Speaker, for these children who had already had a loving adoptive family identified, I encourage the Romanians to examine these cases with alacrity and transparency. Such a priority could mean this Christmas would be filled with renewed hope for hundreds of children and the prospects of a permanent home in the New Year.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BRIGHT TEMPLE
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th year of existence of the Bright Temple Church of God in Christ in Shelbyville, Tennessee. This fine church in Bedford County has experienced many changes since it first opened its doors in 1930, but the congregation's spirit of compassion and fellowship remains the same.

In the midst of the Great Depression, Clarence Garfield Bright founded The Church of God in Christ. Eventually, the name was changed in his honor to Bright Temple Church of God in Christ. In the 1950s, the church became home to revivals that attracted evangelists from across the nation. And in 1964, the

church began to hold a prayer service at noon Monday through Friday, a tradition that continues today.

The church has grown as Bedford County has grown in recent years. Under the leadership of the church's current pastor, Larry James Crismon, Sr., Bright Temple has expanded its facilities and opened a community social service facility.

Shelbyville is a better place because of the work of the Bright Temple Church of God in Christ and its congregation. I congratulate Pastor Crismon and the congregation for all the good work they have done, and I wish them all the best in the next 75 years.

FREEDOM FOR RICARDO GONZALEZ ALFONSO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise today to speak about Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Gonzalez is the president of the Manuel Marquez Sterling Journalists Society and an independent reporter in totalitarian Cuba. Mr. Gonzalez works and writes to inform the world about the gross human rights abuses that occur every day under the repressive regime of the Cuban dictator.

Unfortunately, writing and reporting the truth is not allowed under Castro's tyrannical dictatorship. All attempts to portray the absolute lack of freedom in totalitarian Cuba are viciously condemned and their authors are imprisoned or exiled. Mr. Gonzalez has been harassed by Castro's thugs since 1997, and on March 18, 2003, he was arrested for his insistence on publishing the truth about Castro's totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gonzalez was 53 years old when he was condemned to 20 years in Castro's gulag. The conditions in the Cuban totalitarian gulag are so atrocious as to almost guarantee that Mr. Gonzalez will not walk out if he were to have to serve the entirety of his sham sentence. Let me be very clear, Mr. Gonzalez has been sentenced to die in the gulag by the Cuban tyrant for writing the truth about Castro's brutal, repressive and disgusting regime.

Mr. Gonzalez's wife is calling for the governments of free nations, NGOs, and all those that cherish human rights to demand the release of her husband. I applaud her bravery and patriotism and join her cause. It is categorically unacceptable that men and women who demand freedom from tyranny are locked in the dungeons of monsters. The willful ignorance of Cuba's suffering under the Castro regime by much of the world's press, and most of the international community, amounts to aiding and abetting the Cuban dictatorship. Let us never forget and always support, those who are struggling to liberate their people from the grip of tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, we must cry out for the release of all those who languish in dungeons because they believe in human rights and freedom. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso and every prisoner of

conscience locked in Castro's totalitarian gulag.

TRIBUTE TO MR. VEE-JAY BRANN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Vee-Jay Brann of Hanford, California, on the occasion of his retirement as the Kings County Director of Finance.

With over 30 years of dedicated service to Kings County, Mr. Brann has demonstrated quality leadership alongside committed service to the residents of his community and the people of California.

Named after the day on which he was born, VJ Day, Vee-Jay grew up in the small Wisconsin town of Algoma. Upon graduation from Wisconsin State University Oshkosh with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1968, Mr. Brann entered the United States Air Force.

The great lure of the San Joaquin Valley drew Mr. Brann and he settled in Hanford. Mr. Brann continued his career as a Job Training Specialist until he became the Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector for Kings County. Working diligently to create a welcoming atmosphere for his superior, he as appointed to fill the post of Treasurer/Tax Collector upon her retirement in 1985. That same year, Mr. Brann was pleasantly surprised with the birth of his son David. In May 2004, Mr. Brann resigned his position as Treasurer/Tax Collector to become Kings County's first Director of Finance.

Mr. Brann has served on many professional and social committees and boards. However he is most proud of serving as president of the California Association of Treasurer/Tax Collectors and being the president of the Hanford Rotary Club.

With all of his accomplishments, Mr. Brann's greatest pride continues to be his loving wife and son, his loyal and dedicated staff and his many friends and acquaintances.

While Mr. Brann looks forward to traveling, reading or trying his hand at gourmet cooking, the residents of Hanford will always remember the charismatic Vee-Jay Brann who served the community to the best of his ability.

HONORING DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL, WASHINGTON, DC, AND THE DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1955

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House to honor Dunbar High School, a legendary high school whose importance in American history is well known. I had the good fortune to graduate from Dunbar High School 50 years ago and my class has asked that I bring Dunbar's proud history to the attention of the House on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1955.

Dunbar High School was America's first public high school for African Americans and

rose to prominence in the era of segregation and remained segregated until 1954, when the District of Columbia was one of the six Brown v. Board of Education jurisdictions that successfully challenged segregated schools in the United States. Dunbar's excellence was so recognized and well known nationally that the best colleges and universities annually visited Dunbar to recruit students. An unusually large number of this country's most distinguished African Americans graduated from Dunbar. Among them are Edward Brooke, the first black Senator, Robert C. Weaver, the first black Cabinet member, Benjamin O. Davis, the first black general, Wesley Brown, the first black graduate of the Naval Academy, Charles R. Drew, the discoverer of blood plasma and Mary Jane Patterson, the first African American to achieve a college degree.

The 50th anniversary of the class of 1955 is another occasion for pride in our class and in our alma mater. Pride and gratitude as graduates of Dunbar High School, which prepared us so well for life and career. Pride in graduating from the first public high school in the United States for African Americans. Pride in Dunbar's storied history of educating so many African Americans who have made notable contributions to society. Pride that our alma mater encourages today's students to strive for the same excellence Dunbar encouraged in our class. And pride that we can celebrate magnificent, irreplaceable, and lasting memories of the fun and fellowship we shared together.

For all these reasons and more, I take special pleasure in congratulating our class, Dunbar High School Class of 1955, on our 50th anniversary. I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Class of 1955 and in recognizing the historic achievements on Dunbar High School itself.

ON RECENT COMMENTS OF THE IRANIAN PRESIDENT, MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, every society has a historian who suggests that failure to study history is an invitation to repeat its mistakes. With his recent utterances, the newly elected president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, may be presenting the world with a more dangerous conundrum. He has apparently looked at history and denied it, which requires each of us to come to grips with preposterousness as an international reality. To refuse to study history may invite repetition; but to deny it, particularly when it involves the greatest crime in human history, is an assault on civilized values and portends an attack on civilization itself.

Last week, President Ahmadinejad suggested that the murder of six million European Jews by the Nazis did not occur and called for Israel to be "wiped off the map." This week, after time to reconsider, he made it perfectly clear that he did not flippantly, accidentally or remorsefully express a misunderstanding. He again publicly denied the Holocaust, calling it a "myth" designed to be "above God, religion and the prophets."

Condemning such vitriol is important, but insufficient. Anti-semitism demands rebuttal; but the stakes here are not just one man's prejudice. At issue is the legitimacy and viability of the Israeli state. The United States in this circumstance has no moral option except to make unequivocally clear that Israel's survival is a bedrock American commitment.

There can and should be a role and place for a Palestinian state in the Middle East. But there never should be a question about the legitimacy of Israel. Peaceful coexistence is impossible if irrational aspirations such as those flaunted by President Ahmadinejad are perceived as realistic options.

It is false and counter-productive to think that Jewish-Muslim history begins after the Holocaust or that the rationale for a Jewish state comes exclusively from the Shoah. While the holocaust stamps a moral imprimatur on modern Israel, the cause of Israel's statehood predates the world's most capricious act of inhumanity.

The conflict that has emerged around the establishment of an Israeli state involves a multicentury exodus of a people from their homeland. But while the Bible is punctuated with wars and traumas, it is impressive how doing most of the last several millennia, Jews and Muslims have faced less hostility than Jews living in predominantly Christian countries.

Since biblical times, Jewish communities have thrived without interruption in Arab lands, in Persia and in historical Palestine. When Islam arrived in the Middle East in 633 A.D., intermarriage and even conversion were not uncommon. In fact, throughout the Middle East Jews experienced less Persecution and discrimination than they did in Europe. In Palestine, for instance, Muslims repeatedly protected their Jewish neighbors from European crusaders; in one instance at least, Jews fought alongside Muslims to prevent crusaders from landing in Haifa; and Saladin, after reconquering Jerusalem from the crusaders, invited Jews back into the city.

The Jews in Spain under Moorish rule flourished and experienced a renaissance mirroring that of the great Islamic civilization and culture at the time. As Christianity spread from the north of Spain, Jews were again protected by Muslim rulers until the fall of Granada—the last Moorish kingdom to pass into Christian hands—when both Jews and Muslims were expelled at the end of the 15th century. Most of the Jews from the Iberian peninsula settled in North Africa and the lands under Ottoman rule and continued their largely peaceful coexistence with Muslims in those countries.

What should be taken from this history is not that there is no case for an Israeli state in the Holy Land, but that individuals of the Jewish and Muslim faiths have a long record of successfully living together respecting each other's beliefs and culture. Yes, President Ahmadinejad, there is a Western responsibility to help and defend Israel. But there is an Eastern imperative to enhance the prospect of a more dignified life for all people in the region.

What should also be taken from the history of the last two millennia is that the Jewish people generally found themselves in a position of vulnerability precisely because they lacked a state of their own. Relations within the Muslim world were usually better than within most parts of the Christian world, but

dependency and the potential of violence characterized inter-faith power relationships. Security was always in doubt.

In this historical context, the case for a Jewish state is profound. The only thing that comes from statements like those of President Ahmadinejad is less respect for Iranian leadership, more distrust between peoples, and abundant concerns that violence will accelerate.

History is an accumulated product to which each generation adds. If any generation allows acts of hatred to become the dominant theme of interpersonal relations, it is harder for the next to break out of an angry memory cycle. Thus the challenge in the Middle East today is to give harmony a chance, recognizing that current Jewish-Muslim tension is an aberration. Peace is the historical norm.

Because the past is often more controversial and volatile than current events, it is essential that we study history both from our own perspective and that of others. Denial is not simply obtuse; it is hate inspiring. Iran and the world, deserve better.

H. RES. 597, RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING DON HO ON HIS CAREER IN MUSIC

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas Don Ho is one of Hawaii's and the world's best known and most beloved musical performers;

Whereas Don Ho has entertained and shared Hawaii's Aloha Spirit with millions of visitors to the State and others around the world;

Whereas, after being discharged from the United States Air Force, Don Ho received his start in show business at Honey's cocktail lounge in Kaneohe, Hawaii;

Whereas in 1962, Don Ho began performing at Duke's in Waikiki, which became his home venue;

Whereas Don Ho has for years been backed by the five Aliis playing piano, drums, guitars, xylophone, and other instruments;

Whereas Don Ho's fame and popularity has earned him triumphant engagements at the Coconut Grove in Hollywood, the Sands in Las Vegas, Harrah's at Lake Tahoe, the Palmer House in Chicago, the Americana Hotel's Royal Box in New York;

Whereas, Don Ho has made guest television guest appearances with Johnny Carson, Joey Bishop and Art Linkletter

Be it Resolved that the House of Representatives:

(1) Congratulates Don Ho on his splendid career;

(2) Recognizes Don Ho for his efforts to share Hawaii's Aloha Spirit with his audiences and others around the world; and

(3) Conveys its best wishes for continuing success in his musical career.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my old friend for his impressive musical career and his iconic status as the undisputed king of Waikiki entertainers.

For over 40 years Don Ho has entertained audiences in Waikiki, sharing his Aloha Spirit

by singing "Tiny Bubbles" as well as his other favorite songs. He casts a spell on audiences through his blend of trademark humor, charm and vocal talents. He continues to mesmerize audiences today.

Don Ho's magical persona captures audiences' enthusiasm with each performance through laughter and song. He is charismatic and personable, and he converses with everyone like there's no one else in the room. He is a beloved son of Hawaii, and I look forward to his next performance at the Waikiki Beachcomber. Much love and aloha to Don and his family.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN KELLY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Kelly, a constituent of mine from Burlingame, California, who has been working to make our community a better place since the 1970's. Mr. Kelly has recently been awarded the Thomas Jefferson Award for his work as the former executive director of Samaritan House and as a volunteer at San Quentin State Prison.

Mr. Kelly has lived and worked around the Bay Area for most of his life. He began his community involvement as a Catholic priest, but left to become a teacher at Serra and Menlo Atherton high schools for 18 years. In 1985, he was hired by the county of San Mateo to merge Samaritan House, then a referral service in San Mateo for low income residents, with a nonprofit meal program.

Mr. Speaker, under John's stewardship, Samaritan House expanded to serve throughout San Mateo County, with a 90-bed shelter, a medical clinic, and provides food, clothing and counseling. Mainly through donations, Samaritan House provides assistance to approximately 12,000 residents.

In 1991, Mr. Kelly began a program for inmates at San Quentin State Prison called Kairos, a three-day workshop with spiritual talks, singing and discussions. He visits the prison weekly, attending mass and leading spiritual discussions with the hope of trying to change even the hardest of criminals. He has done just that with many prisoners, some who have gotten out of prison have gone to school in an effort to make John proud.

Mr. Speaker, John Kelly is one of those unique people who work tirelessly to make their community's better. I wish there were more John Kelly's in the world, and I am just so pleased that he is one of my neighbors. I once again ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary individual.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Senator William Proxmire. For over three decades, Senator

Proxmire served the people of Wisconsin with a tenacious devotion to the principles of civic responsibility and ethical leadership. The effects of his determination to uphold these values reach beyond the Badger State and the halls of the Senate, as his legacy of fighting for integrity and accountability in governance has benefited all people of the United States.

Public service shaped Senator Proxmire's life at an early age. After graduating from Yale University in 1938, he served our country in World War II as an officer in the Army Counterintelligence Corps. His desire to continue fighting for the American people brought him to Wisconsin, where he served in the state Assembly from 1950–1956. In 1958 he won his first victory for the United States Senate where he went on to serve for over 30 years.

Senator Proxmire was most well known for his Golden Fleece awards, which he used to single out “wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of the taxpayers’ money.” Senator Proxmire brought many important issues to the people's attention and because of these awards he was able to halt numerous science and academic projects that were of no real value. He will forever be remembered for his contributions to this end and for making wasteful government spending a real issue.

Senator Proxmire's 32 years in the Senate were distinguished by innumerable accomplishments. He was the driving force behind the 1968 “Truth in Lending” act, critically improving the transparency and fairness of loans. He fought racial discrimination in real estate. As chairman of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, he authored the 1980 Banking Deregulation Act. However, his most significant contribution was his tireless determination for the ratification of an international treaty outlawing genocide. Nearly every day for 19 years, Senator Proxmire spoke of the importance of the treaty from the Senate floor until it was finally adopted in 1986.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM NEWTON HEAPS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Mr. William Newton Heaps and to recognize his many accomplishments. He is truly a man who embodies the American principles of hard work, dedication to one's family and service to one's community. William Heaps was born August 20, 1930 to Johnnie and Louise Vandiver Heaps and raised on a farm in Franklin County in Alabama's Fourth Congressional District. While residing in Russellville, Alabama, William Heaps was manager of the Farmers' Co-Op for numerous years. Later he moved to Clanton, Alabama and there he was sales representative for Fuller Supply Co. of Birmingham for 29 years until his retirement in March of 2000. As an adult he attended singing schools in addition to being privately taught by F.R. Morgan, a student of Vaughan Normal School of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. “My Title to Those Mansions” was the first song written by William Heaps and it was published in 1966 by Vaughan Music Company.

This was the first of over 100 songs that he has written. As a member of the First Methodist Church of Clanton, William Heaps has served for several years on the administrative board. He has also served as Chairman of the Chilton County Gospel Singing Convention. He was a representative for the Vaughan and the Tennessee Music Companies for a number of years. He has served on the Supreme Cabinet, as Chaplin, as Vice-President and as President of the Convention. He currently serves as a representative for the Gospel Heritage Music Company. He has been a great supporter of and actively engaged in the Alabama State Gospel Singing Convention for many years. As he continues to write music, he resides in Clanton with his wife, Bernice. They have two twin daughters, Shelia Mims and Shirley Henley, and a son Tommy Heaps, who is now a Methodist Minister. They also have one granddaughter, Laura Heaps, and two grandsons, Will Heaps and Scott Mims. William Heaps is a true “Christian Gentleman” who is compassionate and respectful toward others. He is a great “encourager” with a positive outlook and sound advice. He is an inspiring role model for all of us and I join his friends and colleagues in recognizing one of Alabama's great composers of gospel songs.

REMEMBERING JUNE GILMER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable Texan, June Womack Gilmer, who passed away this year after a valiant battle with Alzheimer's. A descendant of one of Texas's pioneering families, the Lydays, she could trace her family ancestry back to 17th century Williamsburg, Virginia, and 13th century Runnymede, England.

June was born in Honey Grove and raised in the small town of Wolfe City, in the Fourth Congressional District. She married her childhood sweetheart, Ray Gilmer, and they soon settled in Garland, Texas, where June raised her family and pursued numerous civic endeavors. She was president of the PTA, Garden Club, and wives club of the Garland Junior Chamber of Commerce. She was a regent and registrar of the Colonel James Mason Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, an officer of the John Wheeler Bunton Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and the Magna Carta Dames.

A beautiful and accomplished woman, June was a runner-up in the Mrs. Texas contest in the 1950s. She studied interior design in college and for many years worked as a decorator and volunteered her talents for many worthy causes. June and my wife, Mary Ellen, were very close friends. Our families shared food and cars as Ray Gilmer attended the SMU School of Engineering and I was attending the SMU School of Law. Our children played together and we felt a deep and lifelong kinship to the Gilmers.

June is survived by her adored and adoring husband of 60 years, Ray Gilmer, daughter Jamie Williams and son-in-law Dr. Craig Williams, daughter Anne Snow and husband James Snow, six grandchildren, and other family members and life-long friends. Their

loss is shared by all those who knew June Womack Gilmer, and we join them in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of this wonderful woman. As we adjourn the United States House of Representatives today, let us do so in memory of and respect for June and the wonderful Gilmer family.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF SENATOR EUGENE MCCARTHY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of my good friend Senator Eugene McCarthy, former member of the United States Congress, presidential candidate, political activist and author.

Senator McCarthy is a well-known and respected anti-war activist. His voice rose above the crowd against the Vietnam War due to his power and influence in politics. In 1968, Mr. McCarthy garnered an unprecedented number of college students opposed to the Vietnam War to campaign for the Presidency against the incumbent President Lyndon B. Johnson. College students supported Mr. McCarthy because he believed that America should end its involvement in Vietnam. Students from around the country campaigned door to door promoting the slogan “get clean for Gene,” referring to the students shaving off their beards and cutting their long hair. While his views sparked many to campaign for him, he still had a disappointing defeat in the Democratic primary. Although he lost this race, he won a much bigger one. He stood up for what he believed in and would not back down, even in the face of adversity.

Senator McCarthy left politics in 1971 after a distinguished career as United States Congressman and Senator from Minnesota. He spent time writing his memoirs and other books and poems on politics. Senator McCarthy remained active in politics throughout the rest of his life, including running for different offices and supporting other campaigns. Keeping involved in politics, Senator McCarthy stated his opposition for campaign finance laws argued in the Buckley v. Valeo case. In 1980, he wrote the introduction to the campaign book of Libertarian Presidential candidate Ed Clark. Senator McCarthy continued participation in progressive politics with the Consumer party in Pennsylvania and the Minnesota Progressive party. He returned to the Democratic Party in 1992 as a Presidential candidate in the New Hampshire primary. More recently he was a strong and influential supporter of Ralph Nader's 2000 Presidential campaign. After his political career ended, Senator McCarthy became a prolific writer and poet. He authored 30 books and multiple poems about the decline of American politics.

Senator Eugene McCarthy passed away on December 10, 2005, at the age of 89. He will be remembered as an influential and respected politician. More importantly, his contributions to the anti-war movement and influence on college students' political activism will live on in future campaigns and protests. His service as a Representative of Minnesota in Congress will not soon be forgotten.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONORABLE JOHN D. DINGELL'S SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my colleague, JOHN D. DINGELL, of Michigan, on his 50 years of service in the United States House of Representatives this week. He is rightfully called "the Dean of the House," as the longest currently serving Member of the House. Only two Members of the House have ever served longer, and Congressman DINGELL's congressional career began at age 29, when he won election to succeed his father. JOHN DINGELL is known as a Member who is passionate about the welfare of the constituents he represents, and more broadly, all the residents of the United States. He shares his father's great passion for health care for all persons, and was key to the passage of many health care bills, including the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Mammography Quality Standards Act. His work on health extends naturally to the environment as well, both in terms of holding polluters accountable for cleanup, and in working to preserve America's outdoor treasures for future generations. Michigan, of course, borders Canada, and Congressman DINGELL has done outstanding work both in resolving pollution issues with Canada and in creating North America's first international wildlife refuge. As ranking member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and former chairman, JOHN DINGELL is known for his extensive knowledge and wisdom, and commands deep respect from both sides of the aisle. I am sure there have been many temptations over the years to leave congressional service for a more lucrative career, but it is a testimony to his dedication and integrity that he has reached this milestone in his career. I extend to him, and to his wife Deborah, and the entire family, my sincere congratulations.

INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House and to acknowledge the innovative work of the National Center for Sustainable Development (NCSD) a national 501c3 nonprofit corporation headquartered here in Washington, DC, and doing good work in my home state of Texas through its Dallas and Austin offices to restore urban and suburban contaminated real estate to new productive use. The Center is now undertaking potentially significant initiatives involving both energy production and air quality in local communities in the recycling of waste products to biodiesel. As Texas is the historic home of innovation and creativity in the use of natural and man made resources, my purpose is to encourage

the pilot initiative being undertaken by the Center in the city of Texarkana focusing on the recycling of commercial and industrial food waste products currently a significant threat to the proper maintenance and efficiency of municipal waste water treatment facilities.

The initiative which I seek recognition for will produce biodiesel from a waste stream currently which is a constraint on the development of services and small business serving the community of Texarkana and placing a burden on the infrastructure that assures proper and environmentally appropriate disposal of grease and waste oils. The undertaking of such a pilot program in Texarkana, Texas is not by chance. The operations of the pilot will be located in an industrial park next to the Red River Army Depot, the main focus of which is the refurbishment and maintenance of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the Humvees currently supporting our mission in Iraq. A portion of the biodiesel rendered from this initiative will be made available to RRAD for their use in testing its properties for both quality as a fuel and its properties as a cleaner burning replacement for conventional petroleum based diesel fuel.

As chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality I recognize that many are pursuing the goals of increased efficiency and air quality that biodiesel holds for helping to satisfy the domestic need for diesel fuel, now in short supply, and that many methods are being evaluated, but my hope is that NCSD can help create and encourage energy production from existing resources now perceived as obstacles to sustainable growth in my district and elsewhere.

By the House and Committee's acknowledgement of the initiative of the National Center for Sustainable Development I am asking for their report on the progress of the Texarkana facility at the milestone of their first six full months of operations. The subcommittee will be interested in the results of this initiative for both its applications for energy production and for improved air quality. I will close by reiterating my support for this worthy initiative and to follow their progress as an example for use by the subcommittee in its critical work.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the misguided Border and Immigration Enforcement Act of 2005. H.R. 4437 is a misguided bill that will further complicate the immigration crisis.

We, as a country, have not seen a significant change in immigration policy in nearly two decades, even though all Americans agree that current immigration policy is out-

dated and malfunctioning. The majority of surveys throughout this Nation show that the American people are advocating for a comprehensive and realistic approach to immigration reform.

As Members of Congress we have the responsibility to modernize our laws, to ensure equity, and to learn from the successes and failures of our predecessors. H.R. 4437 fails to meet these standards on all levels.

The bill before us today is an insult to the American people who have requested action on the part of their lawmakers. The bill is neither a solution nor even an attempt to understand the immigration crisis. Rather, it is a collaboration of the most destructive proposals in Congress, put forth to promote a false impression that we are working to address the problem. What we are seeing here on the floor today is an unrealistic, unconstitutional bill based on fear.

As a Representative from Arizona, I have had first hand experience with the negative impacts created by "security-only" approaches to the border and immigration, such as is promoted by H.R. 4437. Arizona, my District especially, has been victim to this inadequate approach that ignores the real needs in our communities. For example, this year my District witnessed 262 deaths on its border, yet H.R. 4437 would do nothing to help alleviate this human tragedy.

Though Americans continue to ask that Congress create orderly, legal venues for new immigrants and for safe and legal ways in which immigrants already here can declare their presence, H.R. 4437 does not even come close to fulfilling these requests. In fact, it promotes a shadow culture in which immigrants need and want to hide, which then puts our country at a greater security risk.

With one hasty line, this bill makes all immigrants criminals. It turns an immigration-law violation into an aggravated felony. Thus, legal permanent residents, who initially may have had an unlawful entry but were able to pursue a legal venue thereafter, would be categorized as felons and prevented from becoming U.S. citizens as the current law allows.

H.R. 4437 also endangers checks and balances and progress that our Nation has made towards equality. With its expansion of expedited removal programs, H.R. 4437 removes important checks that currently protect against erroneous arrests and deportations. In the realm of civil rights, immigrants that are victim to domestic violence would be discouraged from seeking protection in fear of being charged with an aggravated felony. Furthermore, immigrants dealing with Federal agencies or the judicial system would no longer have the opportunity to appeal, thereby weakening even more checks and balances in our government.

I am ashamed of the Republican leadership for bringing this bill to the floor, for ignoring the American people, and for supporting a bill that will expand the immigration crisis. Worse than all the harm that this bill would cause is the fact that it fails to include any of the immigration reforms that Americans have asked for. It includes penalties for employers, but no provisions allowing them to attain needed employees. It criminalizes immigrants, but provides no solutions for a legal venue for entry.

As lawmakers, we can do better. We can bring to the floor a comprehensive and realistic approach to immigration that addresses

border security, changes to current immigration law—including earned legalization—and upholds labor rights for all U.S. employees, be they citizens or foreign born. H.R. 4437 is not this bill. It ignores the need to address societal, economic and national security shortfalls and I encourage my colleagues to denounce this insulting response to the American people and vote “no” on H.R. 4437.

CONDEMNING RECENT STATEMENTS OF IRANIAN PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to unequivocally condemn Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's recent declaration that the Holocaust was a myth. Such outrageous comments dishonor the memory of the 6 million Jews and many others who perished under the Nazi regime. To suggest that such a tragedy was imagined as a justification to create the state of Israel, as President Ahmadinejad has done, demonstrates a disconnect from reality and complete ignorance of history. Numerous world leaders have already condemned his comments, and I encourage my colleagues and the entire international community to do the same.

Unfortunately, the denial of the Holocaust is only the most recent in a series of disturbing statements made by President Ahmadinejad. He has also declared that Israel should “be wiped off the map,” suggesting that its people should be relocated to Europe. Furthermore, despite efforts by our European allies to negotiate an agreement to end Iran's nuclear ambitions, Ahmadinejad has declined compromise, stubbornly insisting that Iran has a right to develop its own nuclear program.

Ahmadinejad's disgraceful statements and fervent opposition to engaging with other nations have even earned him condemnation from leaders within his own nation and run the risk of further alienating Iran from the world community. I ask my colleagues to condemn Ahmadinejad's statements about the Holocaust and Israel and demonstrate that there is no place for such intolerance in global political discourse.

CINCINNATI'S FLYING PIG MARATHON NAMED A “TOP TEN MOST ENJOYABLE MARATHON”

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Flying Pig Marathon which is based in my hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio. This week, Runner's World magazine picked the race as one of the top ten most enjoyable marathons in its January, 2006 issue.

Runner's World editors composed a list of 25 marathons known for creating a fun experience, and then allowed readers to vote for their favorites in an online poll. The Flying Pig Marathon was voted the third most enjoyable

event. The symbol of a flying pig has deep roots in the history of Cincinnati, which was once known as “Porkopolis” because of the city's pork industry heritage.

As an avid marathon runner, I am thrilled to see our wonderful hometown race receive the national recognition that it deserves.

The annual Flying Pig Marathon began in May 1999, and was created by my friends Iris Simpson-Bush and Bob Coughlin. Their hard work and leadership has built this race into one of the nation's premiere events.

A 26.2 mile “whole hog” course “flies” through the southwestern part of the Second Congressional District, showcasing some of the most picturesque neighborhoods in Cincinnati. The race also features a 13.1 mile half-marathon, a timed 10K run, a noncompetitive 5K run, and a children's “piglet” event. Last year, there were over 13,000 participants overall, and an entire weekend of family oriented events.

Congratulations to all associated with the Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL JOHN A. “AJ” JACKSON

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, as we continue the fight against terrorism around the globe, we are constantly reminded of the sacrifice and service of our men and women in uniform. I rise today to honor a true American hero, a man who has dedicated his life to protecting our nation, Rear Admiral AJ Jackson from my hometown of Bartow, Florida.

A 1970 graduate of Florida State University, Rear Admiral Jackson entered the Aviation Officer Candidate School in May 1970, and was designated a Naval Aviator in February 1972 at NAS Kingsville, Texas. His active duty assignments included NS Rota, Spain, Attack Squadron Eighty One (VA-81) aboard the *USS Forrestal* (CV-59), and the staff of Commander, Light Attack Wing One, NAS Cecil Field, Florida.

Rear Admiral Jackson commanded Fleet Logistics Support Squadron Five Nine (VR-59), NR Carrier Group 0170, and NR Commander Seventh Fleet 111, and was selected for Flag rank in June 1998. In October 1998, he assumed duties as Deputy/Vice Commander, Maritime Defense Zone, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. One year later, he was assigned as Commander, Rear Area Command, U.S. Seventh Fleet, and in this role he also assumed duties as Commander, U.S. Naval Shore Based Forces Korea, during exercise or contingency operations in Korea.

In July 2001, Rear Admiral Jackson was assigned his present billet at U.S. Central Command as the Deputy Director (Reserve) for Plans and Policy (J5). From March 2002 until May 2004, he was assigned additional duties as Commander, Naval Reserve Readiness Command South. In this capacity he supervised the training and administration of over 10,000 Naval Reservists in 29 Naval Reserve Centers in the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas. Rear Admiral Jackson was promoted to Rear Admiral (Upper Half) on October 12, 2001.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, and other unit and campaign awards. In his civilian occupation, he is a Boeing 777 Captain with American Airlines based at DFW Airport, Texas.

After 35 years of dedicated service, Rear Admiral Jackson will be retiring to spend some well-deserved “R and R” with his wife Jana. On behalf of the residents of Florida's 12th District, I want to commend Rear Admiral Jackson's service to his country and wish him the very best for the future.

BORDER PROTECTION ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, I rise with serious concerns over this legislation, which although it does address some illegal immigration problems is woefully weak on real substance. I fear that should this bill become law as is, six months or even a year down the road we will see no substantial improvement on the critical issue of deporting illegal aliens and protecting our borders.

Some measures in the bill sound good, but are in effect superfluous. Do we need new legislation requiring the Department of Homeland Security to achieve “operational control of the borders”? Shouldn't the federal government already have “operational control of the borders”?

Here is a road map for real immigration reform. First we need better enforcement of the laws we've got—which plainly call for illegal immigrants to be arrested and deported and for our borders to be secure. These things are already law, but the executive branch over the past decades has failed to enforce them. Congress can pass any law it wants, but unless federal agencies enforce those laws they are meaningless.

Second we need to eliminate the two main magnets attracting illegal immigrants to illegally enter the country, the welfare magnet and the citizenship magnet. Failure to address these in an immigration bill raises questions about achieving real results. That is why I introduced three amendments to this bill, in the hopes that we can finally do something about the problem of illegal immigration. I introduced an amendment to end so-called “birth-right citizenship,” whereby anyone born on U.S. soil is automatically an American citizen. I introduced an amendment to end the practice of providing U.S. Social Security payments to non-U.S. citizens. And finally I introduced an amendment to prohibit illegal aliens from receiving food stamps, student loans, or other federally-provided assistance. Unfortunately, none of my amendments were even allowed to reach the Floor for a vote.

There are some elements of this new bill to be applauded. Measures to require detention of and expedited removal of aliens, for example, are a good step. Also to be applauded is the requirement for an additional 250 inspectors at U.S. ports of entry each year from 2007 through 2010, although this is unfortunately subject to the availability of funds. But overall this bill is a weak substitute for real immigration and border reform. As the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) says, H.R. 4437 "treats some of the symptoms, it does not, in fact, do enough to actually cure the illness."

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SPENCER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Spencer, who passed away yesterday at the age of 58. From his role on "The Patty Duke Show" in the 1960's, to his role on "The West Wing" today, he has touched the lives of millions of Americans.

Born December 20, 1946, John Spencer grew up in the great town of Totowa, New Jersey, in my congressional district. At the age of 16 he left home to pursue an acting career in New York. He quickly earned a prominent role on "The Patty Duke Show," playing Henry Anderson. When the show moved to Los Angeles and ended Spencer's run, he returned to the great state of New Jersey, attending Fairleigh Dickinson University for two years. He then moved back to New York and began working as a stage actor.

Mr. Speaker, John Spencer was the son of a dumptruck driver, and brought that working class attitude to his life as an actor. There is no argument about his acting talent, but what set him apart were the countless hours he spent perfecting the lines, the delivery, the entire character.

His career ran the gamut. In the late 1980's he starred as Harrison Ford in "Presumed Innocent," which led producer David E. Kelley to cast him as Tommy Mullaney on "L.A. Law." In the late 1990's he starred in "The Rock," and "The Negotiator," two very high profile successful films. In 1999, he was the first actor cast by Aaron Sorkin to star on "The West Wing," as Leo McGarry; a role I have especially enjoyed watching him play. First as White House Chief of Staff and currently as the Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee, it has been refreshing to watch his character, particularly serving a Democrat in the White House. It would have been nice to have a Vice President from Passaic County.

His working class origins were always apparent. From "Patty Duke" all the way up to the present movies, he was always somebody down to earth, two boots on the ground. I think it had a lot to do with the parts he played.

Mr. Speaker, with John Spencer's death our nation has lost an acting treasure. From the stage, to television to the movies, his career brought joy to millions of Americans. He will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO MAYNARD ORME

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, after 19 years as CEO of Oregon Public Broadcasting and nearly 40 years in public broadcasting, my good friend Maynard Orme will be retiring later this month.

Under Maynard's leadership, OPB has grown and now employs 180 people, operates five television stations and four radio stations. OPB has transformed from a small to a large media entity, providing statewide service to both rural and urban Oregon. Every week 1.4 million people listen to and view OPB, making it one of the largest media outlets in the nation.

Earlier this year Maynard received the Lowell Medal from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for his outstanding contributions to public television. His passion for public broadcasting is evident through his dedication on the Public Broadcasting Service board and Association for Public Television Station board. Under this hard financial time for public broadcasting, Maynard has also been able to pioneer a self-sustaining revenue model for OPB.

He is a treasure trove of institutional knowledge and although I wish him the best retirement, I hope to continue to seek his insights.

THOMASVILLE BULLDOGS ARE PERFECT AGAIN

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the tradition of football excellence continues at a high school in the Sixth District of North Carolina that is known throughout our State as a football powerhouse. For the second year in a row, and for the sixth time in school history, Thomasville High School has captured a North Carolina high school football championship. In addition, while the rest of the country wonders if the NFL's Colts can match the 1972 Dolphins perfect, unbeaten season, I am also pleased to note that Thomasville completed its second, perfect 16-0 football season. In fact, perfect, unbeaten seasons have only been accomplished twice since they began playing high school football in North Carolina in 1927. The other school to do it: Thomasville High School in 1995.

Thomasville captured its second straight State football championship on December 10, 2005, when the Bulldogs defeated Wallace-Rose Hill 21-20 at Wake Forest University's Groves Stadium. The one-point victory was a case of déjà vu for Thomasville because last year the Bulldogs defeated Wallace-Rose Hill 15-14. "These one-point wins are tough on your nerves," Thomasville coach Benjie Brown told the High Point Enterprise. "I don't feel any different. Those kids last year earned it just as much as these kids did. I'm happy for both groups."

We are pleased to recognize all the members of the Thomasville football team who

contributed to this perfect championship season. Members of the squad included Najee Brown, Jeremy McKiver, Cory Tobin, Willie Green, Showron Stukes, Bradley Watkins, E.J. Abrams-Ward, Justin Moore, Chris Woods, Khiry Billie, Richard McLendon, Darius Little, Scott Hines, Quan Warley, Alex Rodriguez, Shawndarian Sanders, Rashad Whitaker, Quan Sanders, Chris Webber, E.J. McCormick, Jaquan Mouzone, Brad Wilkes, Bud Ray, Terrance Pearson, Dajuan Ingram, Lawrence Jackson, Brandon Johnson, Mertez Wilson, Demagio Lawson, Brandon Moss, Jamall Steele, Lorenzo Cannon, Kendarius Cox, Jerrell Wilson, Antonio Royal, Courtney Henry, Ari Foust, Xavier Wallace, Quentin Long, Preston Atwood, Robert Benjamin, Tommy Green, Cornelius Davis, Ji Soo Noh, Trey Ray, Quinton Lindsey, Evander Davis, Dustin Gloor, Willie Cannon, and Michael Byrd.

The players would be the first to tell you that they wouldn't have been able to achieve all that they did without the strong support of the coaching and support staffs. Starting with head coach Benjie Brown, the Bulldogs were ably coached by Stan Baranowski, Allen Brown, Roger Bryant, Sam Captain, Phillip Johnson, Danny Medlin, Matt Pugh, Brandon Staton, and Nick Sweitzer. The community coaches who assisted included Vince Brown, Ed Courtney, Kemp Harvey, and Don Osborne. The middle school coach was Eric Rader. The other valuable members of the Bulldog championship squad included team doctors David Williams and Rob Williams, trainers Kenny Coker and Charles Crowell, statistician Barry Tucker, film crew members Travis Leanord, Wade Loflin, Casey Medlin, and Adam Oakley, gym maintenance staffer Bill Moore, and team managers Keyshawn Green, Ryan Hanner, Jason Hicks, Luke Williams, and Antwon Simon.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate the Thomasville Bulldogs for completing its second consecutive State football championship and doing it without a loss all year. Congratulations to principal Dirk Gurley, athletic director Woody Huneycutt, the teachers, staff, students, parents, and fans of Thomasville High School for bringing football perfection to our district.

STATEMENT HONORING NATELEE BRINLEE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary young woman whose bravery and quick thinking saved her family from a devastating fire. Eight-year-old Natelee Brinlee is a hero in every sense of the word.

Natelee had been through the Irving Fire Department's Safety House where she learned how to implement life-saving measures during a fire emergency. When a fire started in her home, Natelee knew to call 911, and alertly woke up her uncle and brother. This heroism saved Natelee, her uncle and two brothers.

Natelee Brinlee showed maturity and bravery well beyond her 8 years. The recognition

she is receiving is imminently well-deserved, and I know this is merely the first step of many bright years ahead.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, while there is much in this bill that concerns me, I will vote for it because its primary purpose is to make necessary improvements in securing our borders, which I think is needed as part—but only part—of immigration-reform legislation.

To be frank, however, if this bill represented our last word on immigration reform, I would vote against it. By focusing exclusively on the question of border security and immigration enforcement, the House Republican leadership is ignoring the most difficult and challenging aspect of immigration reform, namely the question of how to deal humanely and effectively with the estimated 8–11 million illegal immigrants currently living and working in this country.

Moreover, I am not in favor of making every man, woman and child who overstays a visa or resides in this country illegally a criminal. By making any violation of immigration rules a criminal rather than a civil offense we may only end up discouraging law enforcement from discovering real threats of terrorism or violent criminal conduct. Driving illegal immigrants deeper underground, even more than current law, which keeps them in the shadows, is a terrible tactic if our overarching goal is national security.

So, Mr. Chairman, there are some strong reasons for voting against this legislation. It offers no full solution to the problem of illegal immigration; it is unnecessarily punitive toward otherwise law-abiding individuals, and it unwisely commits this country to the construction of a costly border fence that many security experts believe will divert resources away from more important homeland security needs.

My readiness to support this bill was also reduced by the rhetoric of some who are most vocally in support of it. There is perhaps no more divisive issue in our country than immigration, and sadly, the tone and content of much of the debate in the House has only fueled the division. I discussed the tone and substance of this debate with a good friend and colleague from the Republican side of the aisle and found that we agreed that the House was missing an opportunity to unite the country and pass a sorely-needed comprehensive immigration reform bill.

Despite these concerns, I will vote in favor of this bill because we have to make necessary investments in border security and enforcement. The 9/11 Commission has rec-

ommended increased immigration enforcement personnel, stronger surveillance, tougher entry-and-exit procedures and the use of better technologies to enhance our border security. This bill addresses these concerns and I favor all of these provisions.

Finally, I am convinced that reassuring the American people that we have taken strong action to strengthen enforcement and secure our borders is a necessary predicate for the harder and more complicated task of addressing the problem of existing illegal and undocumented workers.

With stronger border security and enforcement established we can work with the Administration and our colleagues in the Senate to build a consensus for the harder task of clarifying the status of existing illegal immigrants, most of whom are hard-working and otherwise law-abiding people, in a humane and thoughtful way that will protect children, include guest-worker needs and establish a fairer process for legalized entry. If that effort succeeds—as I think it can and am convinced it must—the result not only will be better than the bill before us, it will be a measure that deserves to be sent to the President for signing into law.

HONORING NORTH METCALFE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 6TH GRADE ACADEMIC TEAM

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the North Metcalfe Elementary School 6th Grade Academic Team for their participation and high achievement in the Kentucky Colonel academic competition on December 3, 2005. In this competition, students competed in written assessment categories of math, science, language arts, social studies and arts and humanities.

In these categories, team members placed first and second in math and second in language arts. Collectively, the team went home as first place Kentucky Colonels Quick Recall Champions and placed second in the overall competition, defeating six other teams. Together, they demonstrated great academic prowess, teamwork and sportsmanship before a regional audience, representing competitive values that make Kentucky proud.

I would like to commend Kristen Compton, Price Bell, Lindsey Coomer and Chandler Staggs for their accomplishment. I would also like to recognize their coaches, two fine educators, Angela Welsh and Rachel Dial. I am very proud to represent these students, teachers and their families.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the North Metcalfe Elementary School 6th Grade Academic Team for their achievement and wish them continued success in their promising future years.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL ANTHONY THOMAS MCELVEEN

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a courageous young man who died while serving our country in the war in Iraq. Corporal Anthony Thomas McElveen, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, was killed by enemy action while conducting combat operations on December 1 in Fallujah, Iraq.

On behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, I wish to extend condolences to Corporal McElveen's family and friends, and especially to his widow Carrie who resides in my district.

I also extend the thanks of our state and nation to a brave Marine and his family for their sacrifice in keeping the fight for our freedom on foreign soil. Corporal McElveen's courage, dedication to duty, and willingness to pay the ultimate price to preserve his country will never be forgotten.

Semper Fidelis.

HONORING MR. TERRY R. ADAMS FROM ASHLAND, OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight and commend the service of Mr. Terry R. Adams, a resident of Oregon's Second Congressional District, for his service to his community and the nation as a member of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents. Mr. Adams recently completed his term as the president of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents and had previously served in many positions of responsibility in the Association for more than 18 years. Mr. Adams has also served the insurance industry in many positions at the state level, including as president of the Oregon/Idaho state affiliate.

Mr. Adams has been recognized by his peers for his service in the industry, having twice been honored as the Professional Agent of the Year by the Professional Insurance Agents of Oregon/Idaho, first in 1996 and again in 2001. Terry is a principal of Reinholdt & O'Hara Insurance in Ashland, Oregon, where he has spent his professional career advising consumers about how to obtain the best insurance coverage for their needs.

Mr. Adams' dedication to the highest standards of professionalism as a professional insurance agent has earned him the respect of friends, colleagues and the insurance industry as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to rise today to share with my colleagues the good work that Mr. Adams has done throughout his career as a member of the insurance community, and again congratulate him on the completion of his term as the president of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents.

STEVE BELICHICK (1919–2005): AN AUTHENTIC COACH AND FATHER

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Steve Belichick (1919–2005): an Authentic Coach and Father.

There have been many great images from the New England Patriots dynasty. Tom Brady embracing his teammates after yet another fourth-quarter touchdown. Adam Vinatieri raising his hands after yet another game-winning kick. The Krafts hugging one another after yet another Super Bowl victory.

But the image that might stand out the most is the Gatorade-dousing of Bill and Steve Belichick moments before the Patriots would defeat the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl XXXIX. For many New Englanders, it was the first time they had seen Steve Belichick—the man who every New Englander would like to thank for fathering and mentoring the best coach in football.

And like in his 33-year career as an assistant coach at the U.S. Naval Academy, Steve Belichick would need someone else to draw our attention to him, even at a moment of extraordinary personal success. He was his son's role model, and his son was on the verge of coaching the Patriots to an unprecedented third Super Bowl victory in 4 years. It was a moment that any father would savor, and likely in a way that others would detect.

But Steve Belichick never sought public attention recognition of his work, be it his innovative game-plans, exceptional scouting reports, or the invaluable lessons he taught his accomplished son. Instead, he craved the background, the behind-the-scenes world unseen to fans and media, and the world where he would consistently win the high praise of those "in the know." And like any truly substantive professional, Steve Belichick would take enormous personal satisfaction in obtaining the respect of his peers—the very respect that would often elude more celebrated coaches.

Doubtless for that reason, Steve Belichick had remained out of our sight until the camera caught others showering him and son in victory. It is much the same reason why Bill Belichick often deflects praise and attention. It is simply not the Belichick way of doing things.

When Steve Belichick passed away on November 19, 2005 at the age of 86, it was fitting that we remember him as reluctantly tasting success. And it was fitting that he be with his son.

It can be said that a father always dreams of being less accomplished than his own child, because there is no greater accomplishment for any father.

It is a lesson that Steve Belichick has taught us well.

HONORING JENNIFER INMAN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jennifer (Stelmach) Inman,

an exemplary community leader and citizen from my district, who was recently named Alumna of the Year at Western Kentucky University.

A 1994 graduate, Jennifer was active in Alpha Gamma Delta, Spirit, and numerous other campus organizations while earning her BS in Agri-Business. Jennifer returned to her hometown of Owensboro shortly after graduation, where she has remained active in WKU alumni relations. She has played an integral role in revitalizing the Owensboro alumni chapter, first as Vice President and now as President. She is currently employed as a marketing consultant and commodities broker with Hayden-Hunt Agri-Marketing.

In addition to her career and work on behalf of WKU alumni, Jennifer Inman is a very active member of the Owensboro community serving as the Vice Chair of the WKU-Owensboro Advisory Council, President of the Daviess County Extension Council, Secretary of the 4-H council, Vice President of the Kentucky Women in Agriculture, and Chair of the Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Committee. Jennifer is also a member of the Junior League of Owensboro, YMCA Board of Directors, Owensboro Daviess County Tourism Commission and the Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center Advisory Board.

Jennifer has previously been nominated for the Athena Award, recognizing outstanding women leaders in the Owensboro community. She has also served on the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and as Co-Chairperson for the Chamber Young Professionals.

It is my great privilege to recognize Jennifer Inman today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for her lifelong example of leadership and service. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her for being named Western Kentucky University Alumna of the Year. Her unique achievements and continued dedication to her community make her an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and respect.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UMS-WRIGHT PREPARATORY SCHOOL ON THEIR 2005 4A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor UMS-Wright Preparatory School on their 2005 4A Alabama State Football Championship.

In 1893, Dr. Julius T. Wright founded University Military School and Girls Preparatory School in Mobile, AL. In the fall of 1988, both schools merged and began the school year as one. UMS-Wright Preparatory School is a K–12 school with roughly 1250 students enrolled.

Terry Curtis, head football coach and athletic director, lead UMS-Wright to their third Class 4A State championship in the past 5 years. UMS-Wright's record throughout that time has been an incredible 68 wins and only 4 losses, which translates to a winning percentage of .944. In addition, Coach Curtis has been selected as a member of the 2005 Mobile Sports Hall of Fame. Like Coach Curtis, I

am so proud of his players, and I know they worked hard for this great honor.

The UMS-Wright Bulldogs proved they are a team of champions in their victory on December 1, 2005, at Legion Field in Birmingham. They defeated Deshler 42–16 and made UMS-Wright the winners for the night and year.

Both teams had strong support from their families and fans. They traveled to Birmingham to support and cheer on their team. The fan support is a strong symbol of encouragement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating UMS-Wright Preparatory School on their perfect season and State championship. This school deserves public recognition for this great honor.

I extend my congratulations to each member of the team and coaching staff:

UMS-WRIGHT ROSTER

Tom Leatherbury, Senior; Terrell Edwards, Junior; William Harvey, Sophomore; Bobby Jones, Senior; Louis Maisel, Senior; Park Parker, Senior; Chris Carpenter, Junior; Taylor Morrisette, Senior; Brandon Gibson, Junior; Joey Bacon, Senior.

Colin Sigler, Junior; Preston Dial, Senior; Hayes Harris, Senior; Michael Scott, Junior; Taylor White, Senior; Elliott Pennington, Sophomore; Austin Hilyer, Sophomore; Edward Williams, Senior; Miller Wright, Junior; Erling Riis, Junior.

Bill Davis, Sophomore; Drew Allen, Junior; Charles Jackson, Senior; Henry Shields, Junior; Ley Bell, Junior; Blake McMullen, Sophomore; Wyatt Ison, Junior; Rashod Bumpers, Senior; Joe Grady, Junior; Brent Pettie, Sophomore.

Heath McGrew, Sophomore; Tyler Baxter, Sophomore; Robert Williams, Sophomore; Charles Munderloh, Senior; Lee Peters, Sophomore; Conrad Blunck, Junior; Cooper Perdue, Senior; Chris Ramanauskas, Junior; Crain Rogers, Sophomore; Philip Ison, Senior; Chase Cutrell, Sophomore; Howard Walker, Senior.

George Oswalt, Junior; Nelson Argueta, Sophomore; Paul Bouler, Senior; J.J. Gotlieb, Junior; Kyle Rehm, Senior; Anthony Jeleric, Senior; Walker Plash, Senior; Steven Jones, Sophomore.

Raymond Faircloth, Junior; Brooks Hieronymus, Senior; McLeod Chunn, Sophomore; Richard Wilkins, Sophomore; Cameron Gunter, Sophomore; Greg Ziemann, Senior; Kyle Ellis, Junior; and Morgan Kennedy, Sophomore.

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach, Terry Curtis; Assistant Coaches, Brett Boutwell, Rick Cleveland, Brandon Dean, Stacy Harrelson, Gerald Jones, Phil Lazenby, Eddie Roberts, Jerry Simons, Jim Sudeiha, and Don Urquhart.

A TRIBUTE TO ALAN REICH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reflect upon the public service of my friend, Alan Reich, who passed away on November 8, 2005.

In 1962, Mr. Reich was 32 years old, a former athlete and Army officer. That year, a swimming accident left him a quadriplegic. Despite this life-changing event and the challenges that quadriplegia brings, he returned to

his job as an executive at Polaroid Corporation where he worked for 11 years. Mr. Reich's return to work demonstrated to his colleagues, in the most basic way, that life with a disability can be productive and fulfilling. In the years following the accident, he went on to pursue his career goals and was appointed to the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the State Department.

It is important to note that Mr. Reich's accident and his recovery took place decades before the Americans with Disabilities Act. At that time, people like Alan Reich, who overcame personal obstacles to move forward with their lives, sent an important message to the world that people with disabilities have gifts and talents to contribute. This message was the foundation of the movement to pass the ADA in 1990, and declare for the first time that disabled Americans have a right to fully participate in all aspects of our society.

Mr. Reich became involved in advocacy for people with disabilities, initially as a volunteer. He later went on to devote his professional life to the cause, serving as the President of the National Paraplegia Foundation—known today as the National Spinal Cord Injury Association—and founding the Paralysis Cure Research Foundation, the National Task Force on Disability and the National Organization on Disability. His vision and work lives on through these organizations, which he fostered and developed.

I arrived in Washington, DC, in 2001, as the first quadriplegic Member of the House of Representatives. My own service in this body would not have been possible without the commitment of leaders in the disability community, who fought to pass the ADA. Alan Reich was one of those people and he was among the first leaders in the disability community here to greet me. I am tremendously grateful for his personal determination and his dedication to creating opportunity for others with disabilities. His work made this country a better place for future generations of individuals with and without disabilities to succeed and thrive. His passing leaves me with personal sorrow, yet as we reflect on the life of this extraordinary individual, I am inspired and honored to have called him a friend.

I thank my colleagues for the opportunity to pay tribute to my friend, and I urge them to support H. Res. 592, a resolution celebrating the life, achievements and contributions of Alan Reich.

A TRIBUTE TO JERRY BLAVAT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the pioneers of rock and roll, my dear friend Jerry Blavat. Born and raised in my district, Jerry was attracted to the music business because of his love for the music, not for fame or wealth. Jerry is truly one of a kind. He is as much a part of Philadelphia as cheesesteaks, soft pretzels and the Liberty Bell. A great artist in his own right, Jerry was a dancer on the original Bandstand television program, hosted by Bob Horn. He became a favorite with the viewers and rose

to the head of the coveted "Committee", the group of teens responsible for aiding Horn in the direction of the show.

When he was just 16 years old, Jerry leapt into the music business by managing a national tour for Danny and the Juniors, pushing them into stardom. He got into radio in 1960 and soon was given the title "The Geator With the Heater." He soon coupled his growing popularity on the air (which by 1963 resulted in regional syndication of his program on small stations throughout the Delaware Valley from Atlantic City to Allentown) with appearances off the air at dances, clubs and events. It was not unusual for Blavat to see 5,000 kids a week in person in the mid '60s, nor too much of a stretch to say he'd remember 3,000 of their names the following week. His appearances became so frequent that for a time he needed to use a helicopter just to make it on time from one gig to the next. Today the helicopter is gone, but the frantic schedule is still in place. Throughout the year, he can be found somewhere on virtually any night, and in the summer months he's in weekend residence at Memories At Margate, the New Jersey Shore's hottest night spot which he's owned and operated since 1972.

Jerry Blavat is a true innovator. For instance, he introduced several national dance crazes, such as "The Mashed Potato," "The Stomp," "The Stroll" and "The Jerry Shake."

Mr. Speaker, Jerry Blavat is well known for his artistry, his business talents and his showmanship. But, not enough people know of Jerry's human side. Jerry's work on behalf of the less fortunate. He is extremely generous with his time and his resources, and has earned our City's love and respect because of that fact.

Jerry Blavat keeps us young, keeps us together and most of all, he keeps us dancing. And so, I know that all my colleagues will join me in honoring the Boss with the Hot Sauce, Jerry Blavat.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, 2005, I was absent from several votes for personal reasons. Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall vote No. 642 (Motion to close portions of the Defense Authorization Conference to the Press and Public when matters of National Security are under consideration): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 643 (Rolled Vote on Skelton Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1815): "No"; Rollcall vote No. 644 (Previous Question on Rule for H. Res. 612): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 645 (Adoption of Rule for H. Res. 612): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 646 (Adoption of Rule for H.R. 4437): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 647 (Rolled Suspension Vote on H. Con. Res. 294): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 648 (Final Passage of H. Res. 612): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 649 (Rolled Suspension Vote on H. Res. 409): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 650 (Rolled Suspension Vote on H. Res. 575): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 651 (Rolled Suspension Vote on H. Res. 534): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 652 (Spratt Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4241):

"No"; Rollcall vote No. 653 (Goodlatte/Herseth Amendment to H.R. 4437): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 654 (Stearns Amendment to H.R. 4437): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 655 (Sensenbrenner Amendment to H.R. 4437): "No"; Rollcall vote No. 656 (Norwood Amendment to H.R. 4437): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 657 (Westmoreland Amendment to H.R. 4437): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 658 (Gonzalez Amendment to H.R. 4437): "No"; Rollcall vote No. 659 (Sullivan Amendment to H.R. 4437): "Aye"; Rollcall vote No. 660 (Motion to Re-commit with Instructions): "No"; Rollcall vote No. 661 (Final Passage of H.R. 4437): "Aye"; and Rollcall vote No. 662 (Rolled Suspension Vote on H. Res. 598): "Aye".

HONORING THE LIFE OF JENNIE MAE FREELAND KELLER

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dynamic Hoosier who passed away yesterday December 16, 2005 at the grand age of 79 years old. I knew Jennie Mae Freeland Keller very well and she was truly a very special person. One of six children born into a poor and struggling family from southern Indiana, she was an art and music prodigy. At the age of 15 she moved from Connersville, Indiana to live with her older sister in Indianapolis so she could attend art school classes at Herron School of Art and also attend Shortridge High School—known for its superior music program. Jennie Mae was proud of having gotten straight A's all through school and later in life she would learn she was a Mensa. While at school she excelled with her chosen musical instrument—the cello—though she never read a note of music. It is perhaps fitting that she passed away while listening to the classical music she so loved in life, and with a video of America's most beautiful sights playing in the background.

Described by her children as the "Laura Petrie" of her neighborhood, Jennie Mae always merrily accepted duties, such as collecting for the March of Dimes, or the Cancer Society—all while trying to raise five children. Two of those kids, Elizabeth and Claudia, have long been valuable members of my staff, and my heart goes out to them and their siblings in their time of grief. Mr. Speaker, Jennie Mae Keller may not go down in the history books as someone who changed the world, but she changed the lives of everyone around her or came through her life. She will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in sending their deepest sympathies and heartfelt prayers to Jennie Mae Keller's family, and I ask unanimous consent to place a copy of Jennie Mae's obituary in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Jennie Mae, Freeland Keller. Born January 30, 1926

An accomplished artist and musician. In 1943 at the age of 17 was awarded the title of Miss World Peace shortly after the end of World War II. A loving and devoted mother and wife. A tireless volunteer for political freedom. A never ending fighter for what was

right, and not just politically correct. Will be sadly missed by all that knew and loved her. May God Bless her.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise to join my colleagues in recognizing the 103rd anniversary of Korean American immigration to the United States, and honoring the contributions of the Korean American community to our country.

On January 13, 1903, the S.S. *Gaelic* docked in Hawaii, carrying with it the first wave of immigrants from Korea, and ushering in a new chapter in our nation's heritage. These pioneering individuals—56 men, 21 women, and 25 children—would blaze a trail for more than two million Korean American immigrants and their descendants who live throughout our nation today.

Following World War II and the Korean War, a second wave of thousands of Korean immigrants came to the United States. Like all immigrants, they sacrificed everything they knew to answer the calls of freedom and new opportunity, with the hopes of building brighter futures for themselves in America.

Over the course of one hundred years of immigration, Korean Americans have worked hard to achieve the American dream through their resolve, determination, and an abiding belief in the greatness of this country that we love. While well known and celebrated for its entrepreneurial spirit, the contributions made by the Korean American community to our society extends to all areas of the American fabric and have profoundly enriched our national heritage. Korean Americans have broken down language and social barriers, and fought back against the obstacles of racism and discrimination to succeed in and contribute to all aspects of American life—all.

As Representative of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my privilege to represent a diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander community, including a vibrant and active Korean American community.

In marking the 100 year anniversary of Korean American immigration, the Centennial Committee on Korean Immigration designated January 13 of each year as Korean American Day. By honoring this day, we celebrate the extraordinary contributions of this unique community to our country, and rededicate ourselves to making the American dream a reality for all.

This legislation has my strong support, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this vibrant community.

VICTORY IN IRAQ RESOLUTION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 612, "Express-

ing the Commitment of the House of Representatives to Achieving Victory in Iraq". Because of the severe importance of this issue, I feel it is crucial that I explain my position on this issue. As we are all aware, on Friday, December 2, 2005, 10 United States Marines were killed in a bomb attack on their foot patrol outside Fallujah. The following day, 11 Iraqi soldiers died after insurgents ambushed a joint patrol of American and Iraqi forces just north of Baghdad. In my District of Houston, TX, several Disabled Veterans, family members of current and fallen soldiers, and friends joined in a "call to action" to let this Administration know that enough deaths have amassed in the Iraq war to warrant an immediate plan to redeploy our troops back to the U.S. We see daily examples that define this situation as a crisis that continues to increase. Americans deserve a serious exit strategy—'staying the course' has clearly failed.

I salute our brave women and men who are serving and who have served in our military, as they have been victorious. There is no separation among Americans on our belief that our troops deserve and should receive honor. However, as many defense specialists and other scholars have suggested, our troops continued presence in Iraq may constitute and be the basis for the increased violence. We must transfer authority and oversight to a sovereign Iraqi Government. They should then seek to gain the support of certain Arab nations. There is no success in the mounting bloodshed. The Washington Post reported on December 3, 2005 that sources suggest media groups in the United States might have paid Iraqi press to publish favorable propaganda about U.S. military operations there. With this and numerous other possible incidents that raise suspicion as to the credibility of certain American government officials, the troops are in a very tenuous position in a land foreign to them amid daily attacks by insurgent groups. Let us be proactive in helping to save lives and honor our troops by bringing them home safely.

Part of the plan that I suggest includes the following steps:

(1) acts of American diplomacy in furtherance of the creation of an international coalition of support,

(2) convening of a summit of Arab nations for the purpose of engaging leadership on the question of what steps can be taken to aid this region,

(3) cessation of the redeployment of American troops to multiple tours of duty to the region,

(4) allocation of resources and attention to the over 15,000 injured soldiers and the need for medical and educational services,

(5) establishment of a special memorial to honor those who have fallen in the Iraq engagement, and

(6) establishment and articulation of a comprehensive exit strategy that will result in the redeployment of the troops back to the U.S. and the restoration of sovereignty to the installed Iraqi government. Democrats should distinguish themselves by their alliance on this issue.

Many of the Democratic resolutions, specifically that introduced by Mr. MURTHA, deserve our support. They represent excellent vehicles to distinguish Democrats before the American people. We must do that!

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in furthering these initiatives, and I would like to

thank our troops for their hard work and dedication in keeping us safe.

PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House of Representatives passed the Pension Protection Act on a vote of 294–130. I voted in favor of this bill in order to move the legislative process forward because failure to approve pension reform legislation endangers the retirement security of hundreds of thousands of workers. Without changes our pension system, many employers will face even greater pressure to file for bankruptcy to terminate their workers' pension plans. Though I supported H.R. 2830, it is my hope that the final conference report will be a product more closely resembling the version that passed the Senate on a near unanimous vote.

It is my understanding that when the Conference Committee convenes, Education and Workforce Chairman BOEHNER will support including a Senate provision that provides some industries with needed time to address their unique financial circumstances. Without immediate passage of this bill, some defined benefit plans may be forced to default on its payments to retirees.

While not perfect, H.R. 2830, the Pension Protection Act, contains many important provisions that will strengthen our defined benefit system. For example, the Act provides relief to multi-employer pension plans by allowing more affordable and appropriate contributions to maintain their employees' pensions. This will greatly benefit workers in the skilled trades, such as plumbers, carpenters, and transport workers. I was disappointed that multi-employer pensions were excluded from the temporary pension relief that was signed into law last year, and I am glad that this bill provides long overdue relief to secure these workers' pensions.

Though House passage of H.R. 2830 is better than passage of no bill at all, this legislation must be improved during the conference between the House and Senate. I would like to see a bill that does more to protect older workers whose employers convert their defined benefit pension plans to cash-balance plans. Further, this bill provides that the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation guarantee some, but not all, pensions when a factory or plant shuts down. Stronger protections for older workers and insurance for all shut down pension benefits should be included in the final Conference Report.

All workers in every type of industry require immediate changes in our current pension laws if we are to ensure that future generations are able to participate in the defined benefit retirement plans that offer superior retirement security. Failure to pass this bill and move the legislative process forward endangers thousands of workers pensions. Though the Pension Protection Act is not a perfect bill, I am compelled to support this legislation so that our pension system can be changed to assist all employees.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONORABLE JOHN D. DINGELL'S SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join colleagues in recognizing and honoring JOHN DINGELL as he celebrates his fiftieth anniversary as a member of the House of Representatives.

As a young political scientist teaching about the Congress and doing research on the committee system, I knew a good deal about JOHN DINGELL before I joined him in the House in 1987. I studied his role, along with his friend and colleague John Moss, in shaking up the Commerce Committee in the 1970s, decentralizing the then-Chairman's authority and greatly stepping up oversight of the executive. I came to the House hoping that I could someday become a Commerce member myself. By then, JOHN was chairman, and the Committee was the "place to be" for an activist member, known for its broad legislative reach and vigilant oversight.

As it happened, my region had its full quota of Commerce seats, and I successfully pursued Appropriations instead. But I have continued to admire JOHN's work, now as ranking member. He is totally dedicated to this institution as the keystone of American democracy, and he fully understands the importance of active, assertive committees to the institution's capacity for deliberation and sound law-making.

JOHN richly deserves the fulsome tributes we have heard from senior and junior colleagues, of every partisan and political stripe, upon this fiftieth anniversary of his winning the seat vacated by his father's death in 1955. Many have also mentioned Debbie Dingell, JOHN's wife and partner in service. Debbie has been an invaluable resource to the House Democratic Caucus in planning issues conferences and other activities, and I recently was privileged to serve with her on our national party's Commission on Presidential Nomination Timing and Scheduling.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join in tribute to JOHN and Debbie DINGELL—to thank them for their dedication and perseverance, for their effectiveness as advocates and public servants, and for what they have meant to each of us and to our country as champions of this institution.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration

laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, after long deliberation and discussion with the bill's author, I decided to vote "aye" on H.R. 4437. This bill is far from complete, and far from being ready to become law. Yet, it has become clear that Congress will deal with immigration reform through several stages in a long process during the next session of the 109th Congress. I supported H.R. 4437 to begin this process, so we can ultimately achieve comprehensive immigration reform.

Among the provisions I believe are instrumental toward achieving such reform are the reforms to secure our borders. Border security is no longer simply an issue of illegal immigration. It is an issue of national security, where we are vulnerable to terrorist infiltration. This proposal offers a comprehensive way to address this threat.

However, I have several concerns with this legislation that must be addressed in order to receive my support for a final, comprehensive solution to fixing our broken immigration system.

First and foremost, the provision in H.R. 4437 that makes undocumented alien status a federal felony is totally unacceptable. Prior to the bill's passing, I received a commitment from the author, Chairman SENSENBRENNER, that this provision will be removed. Second, the employer verification system proposed in this bill is unworkable and must be fixed. Third, a final bill should include the creation of a secure, legal channel by which foreign workers needed to keep the United States' economy growing may enter and leave the country. And, finally, we must bring into the open, in a reasonable and fair manner, the millions of immigrants who are living in our communities without any documentation. Failure to address all of these issues will simply prolong our broken immigration system.

Because Congress is so divided on how to achieve comprehensive reform, it has become clear to me that such reform will occur in stages over the course of the next year. I look forward to working with my colleagues in both political parties to make sure the final version of this legislative effort is one we can all be proud to support.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4437, The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005. This is a good bill that takes some important steps to curb illegal immigration, secure our borders and make America safer.

The bill takes a broad range of actions to secure our Nation. These include imposing tougher penalties for those who smuggle illegal immigrants into the U.S. and for those who overstay their visas. Individuals involved in making and using fraudulent documents will face stiffer penalties. We also end the "catch and release" policy that allows apprehended illegal immigrants to slip away unnoticed and live illegally in the U.S. as they will no longer simply be released back into the community.

With regard to granting immigration benefits, i.e., citizenship, green cards, permanent residency, the bill ends the practice of granting such benefits to those for whom a background check has not been completed. Immigration benefits should not be handed out simply because a certain number of days have passed since the investigation was commenced. Perhaps the background check approval is being delayed because of the need to fully investigate a possible criminal or terrorism risks.

Current law denies immigration benefits to those who are classified as habitual drunkards, but not those affiliated with terrorist organizations. This bill fixes that problem by making sure that illegal immigrants who are deportable on terrorist grounds are deported without delay.

H.R. 4437 requires employers to verify that prospective employees are legally employable. The bill ensures that a system is in place for employers to verify the legal status of such job applicants and it provides penalties for employers who violate these laws. The bill also prohibits federal funds provided under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program to any state or local government that maintains a "sanctuary policy" for illegal immigrants.

In order to ensure that we have a better understanding of just who is crossing illegally into the U.S. the bill requires the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, to report to Congress on the number of illegal aliens apprehended who are from non-contiguous countries, with a particular emphasis on ascertaining the number of individuals from countries known to harbor terrorists. DHS is also to provide the Congress with a timeline for fully equipping all land borders with the US-VISIT entry/exit system.

On a 260-159 vote, the House mandated the construction of security fencing, including lights and cameras, along the Southwest border in sectors with the highest number of illegal border crossings, drug smuggling, and immigrant deaths. Additionally, DHS will be required to conduct a study and report back to Congress on the use of physical barriers along the Northern border.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 4437 moves us in the right direction of addressing the serious problem of illegal immigration making the United States more secure.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, our Nation has long been a beacon for the dispossessed and downtrodden around the world who come to our shores for a shot at achieving financial security, personal security, and to fulfill their human potential, the very essence of the American dream. Our Nation was built on the sweat and ingenuity of immigrants. My father's side emigrated from Italy, and my mother's side came from Ireland. We should be proud of this heritage.

However, a nation that does not have control over its own borders is a nation that cannot claim to be sovereign. We need to know who is coming into our country, and we need to be able to keep out those who are not authorized to enter. The status quo, with 500,000 or more individuals entering the U.S. illegally every year, including untold numbers from countries of concern, meaning countries in which radical Islamic terrorists are prevalent, is not acceptable.

Prior efforts by Congress to control and rationalize immigration, including the reforms enacted in 1986 and 1996, have failed. One of the primary reasons these reforms have failed to stop the flow of undocumented workers and the exploitation of immigrant labor is the lack of meaningful employer sanctions. I believe the crux of the legislation under consideration today, in addition to enhanced border security provisions, such as more agents, improved technology, and cracking down on document fraud, is that for the first time Congress is imposing tough employer sanctions, which will decrease the incentive to exploit immigrant labor. H.R. 4437 would double the fines for employers who hire undocumented workers to a minimum of \$5,000 for a first offense and up to \$40,000 for subsequent offenses. H.R. 4437 would also require employers to verify an applicant's eligibility for lawful employment with immigration and Social Security officials.

These enhanced employer verification provisions are one of the reasons why the powerful business lobbies like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, some of whose members regularly hire low-wage exploitable immigrant labor, are opposing the bill, but also one of the reasons why I support it.

Many business and immigrant rights organizations, along with some in organized labor, have raised the concern that H.R. 4437 does not include guest worker provisions.

I have serious reservations about the guest worker proposals that have been proposed by the President and in various bills in Congress. Very little has changed with respect to guest worker programs since I came to Congress. They continue to be a source of worker exploitation. When I was first elected, I fought a small group of government contractors in the forestry and reforestation industries who were abusing their workers. A recent series in the Sacramento Bee newspaper documented that abuse of immigrant labor continues to be widespread in guest worker forestry programs.

The new guest worker proposals are unlikely to improve that situation.

Guest-worker programs have also historically been used to break unions. The meatpacking industry is a prime example. The meatpacking industry broke the unions by bringing in low-wage immigrant labor. Once the union was broken, the industry cut wages and benefits for the immigrant workers, sped up conveyor belts, and just generally made working conditions miserable. The rate of worker injuries and workplace accidents are extraordinarily high. It's taken the industry back to the days described in Upton Sinclair's book *The Jungle*.

I am wary of the impact on low-income Americans and low-wage legal immigrants from guest-worker proposals. Such proposals threaten to increase the low-wage labor pool in the U.S. by millions of workers, further eroding the pay rates and working conditions of tens of millions of Americans and legal immigrants. The nearly 20 percent of Americans without a high-school degree will be particularly hard hit. Under the leading guest-worker program in Congress, the number of unskilled workers authorized to enter every year would be 400,000. In addition, 290,000 higher skilled workers would be allowed in every year, nearly double the number in current law.

The Commission on Immigration Reform, created in 1995 by President Bill Clinton and headed by former Democratic Member of Congress Barbara Jordan, reported, "Guest-worker programs have depressed wages" and reduced employment opportunities for "unskilled American workers, including recent immigrants," who can be easily "displaced by newly entering guest workers."

A study by Harvard University professor George Borjas shows wages for Americans dropped 9 percent for high school graduates and 5 percent for college graduates in the wake of the unprecedented migration of undocumented immigrants in the 1980s and 1990s. Other studies, including research by the National Research Council and the Economic Policy Institute, show immigrants under "guest" worker programs are paid 15–33 percent less than American citizens, driving down wages for all workers.

I am also concerned that the administrative burden created by guest-worker programs will disadvantage immigrants from around the world who are now waiting in line for their paperwork to be processed so they can enter the U.S. legally. Though they have complied with the law, filed all the required applications, provided all the needed documentation, and paid all the fees, it will be years before they have legal status. My staff and I devote countless hours every week to the plight of frustrated legal immigrant husbands, wives, mothers and fathers, and children trying to navigate the immigration maze. Families are separated for years and years going the legal route, and immigrants from the Philippines and Mexico often have to wait at least a decade to be approved with no chance to jump to the head of the line.

H.R. 4437 is not a perfect bill. Far from it. Immigrant rights organizations, labor unions

and others have rightfully pointed out that the bill does not in any way address the 10–12 million undocumented workers already in the U.S., no matter how long they've been here or how much they've contributed to their local community or the economy. I am concerned that the alien smuggling provisions are written in an overly broad way that could penalize the everyday actions of social service organizations, churches, and others who may provide humanitarian aid and counsel to immigrants. Further, a dubious amendment was adopted during consideration on the floor that requires the construction of \$2.2 billion worth of fences along a part of the southern border, which, as evidenced by the failure of similar fences in Spain and along the Hong Kong-China border, will do little or nothing to combat illegal immigration, but will certainly divert money from programs that could. Instead, this money could be spent to hire and equip 2,000 additional agents for 10 years and to improve technologies used to protect the border.

We need to move this complex and emotional debate on border security and immigration reform forward. Although H.R. 4437 is flawed, I am voting in favor of the bill because it contains a number of provisions that I support related to border security; because this is the only immigration legislation the Republican leadership will bring to the floor, meaning it is the only opportunity I will have to go on record in favor of enhancing border security; and because I expect that the Senate will address the major deficiencies in the bill. Immigration will be debated again in the House next year after the Senate has worked through its own version of immigration reform and border security legislation and a conference committee has met and resolved the differences between the two chambers bills. I will reserve judgment on whether to support the final bill until I see the details.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last evening the House voted on H. Res. 598, Condemning actions by the Government of Syria that have hindered the investigation of the assassination of former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri conducted by the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC), expressing support for extending the UNIIC's investigative mandate, and stating concern about similar assassination attempts apparently aimed at destabilizing Lebanon's security and undermining Lebanon's sovereignty.

Through an error, I was recorded as voting "nay" on the adoption of that resolution. I should have been recorded as voting "yea." I cosponsored this resolution when it was introduced and during the debate on H. Res. 598 I spoke strongly in favor of its adoption.